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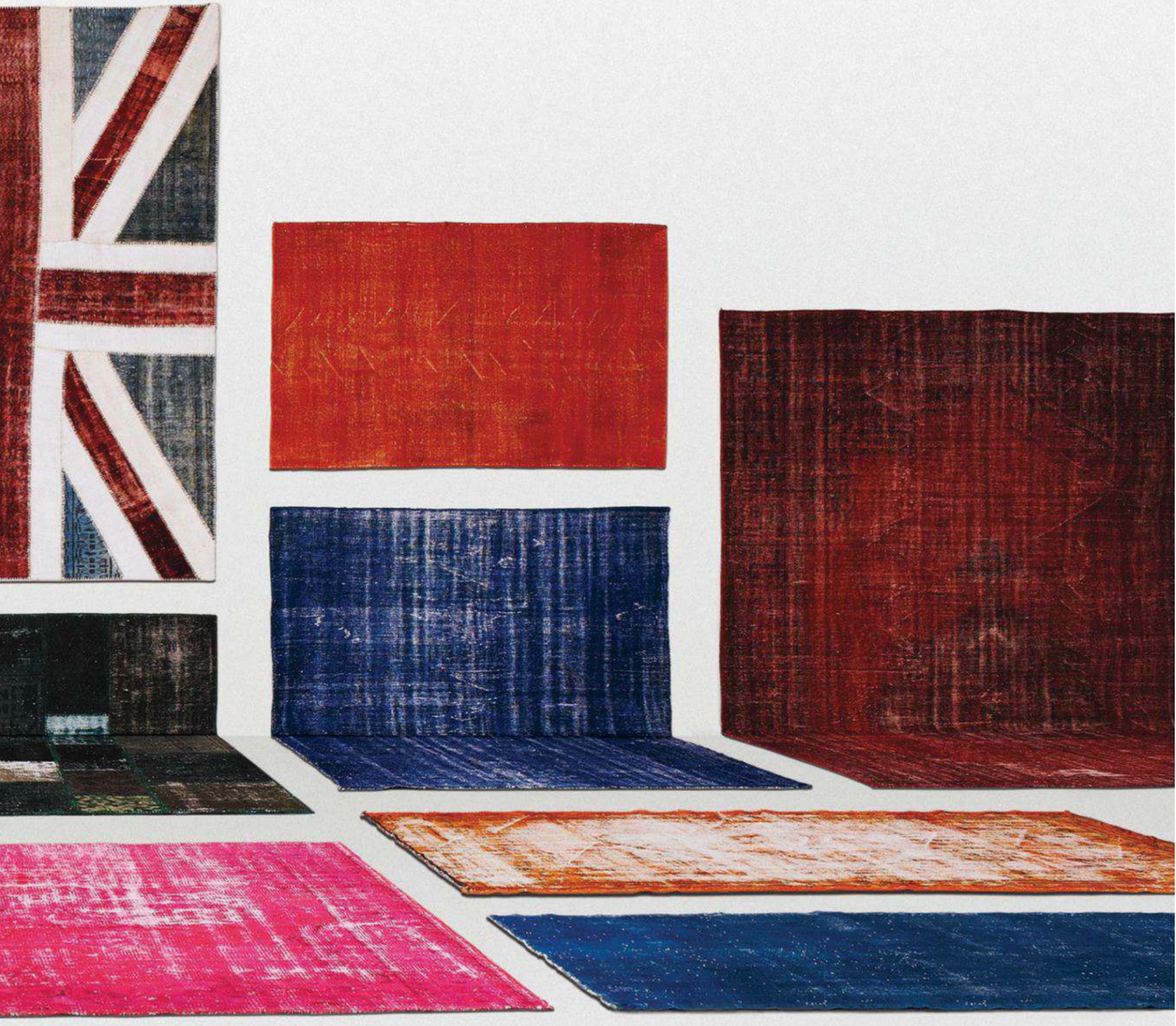

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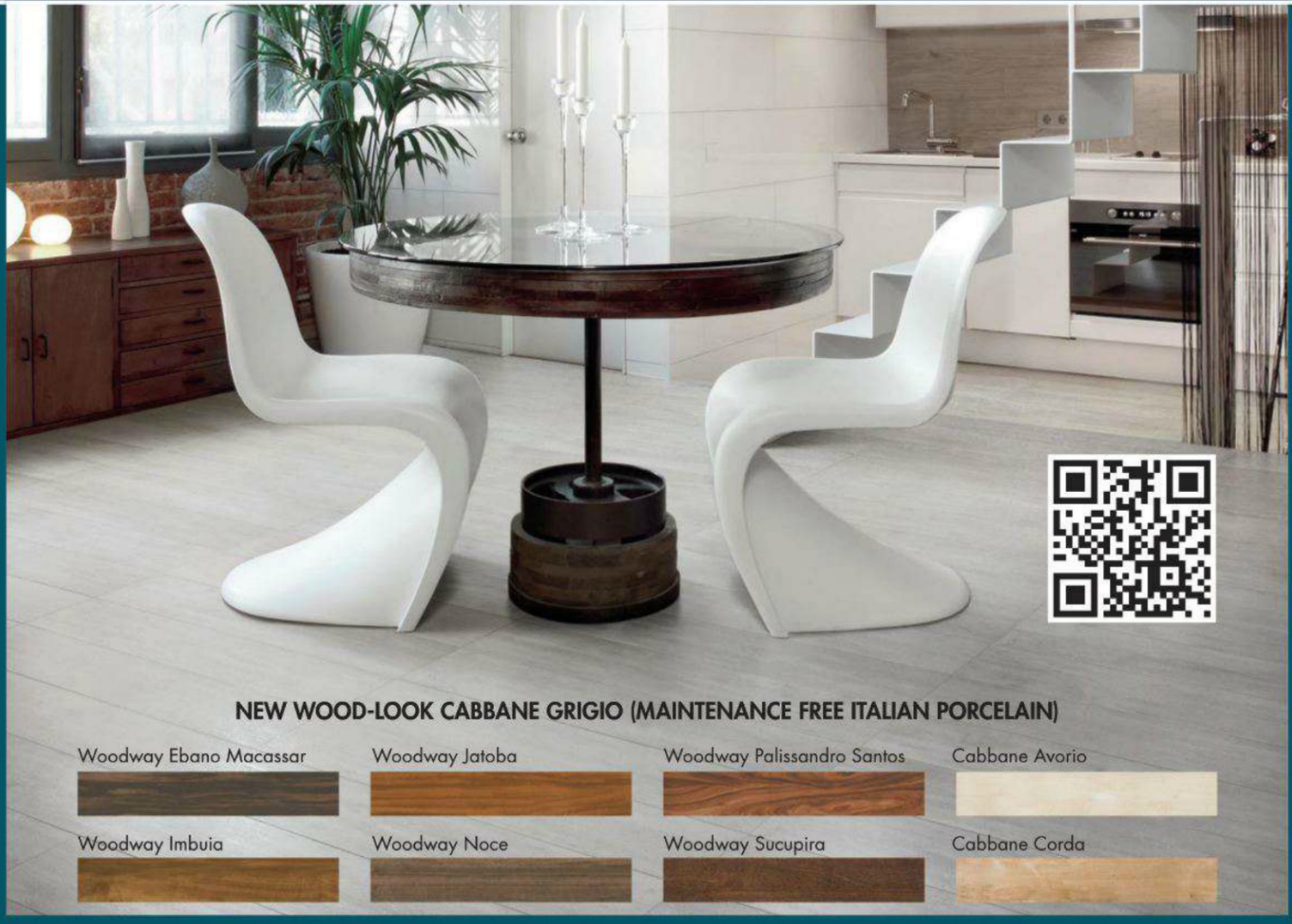

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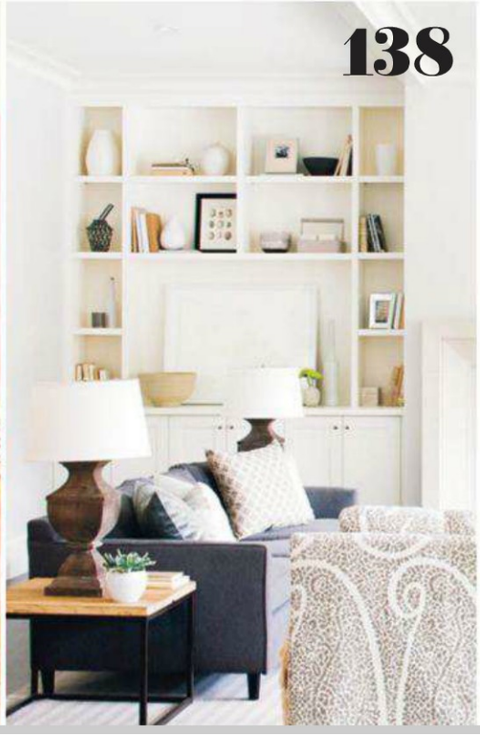

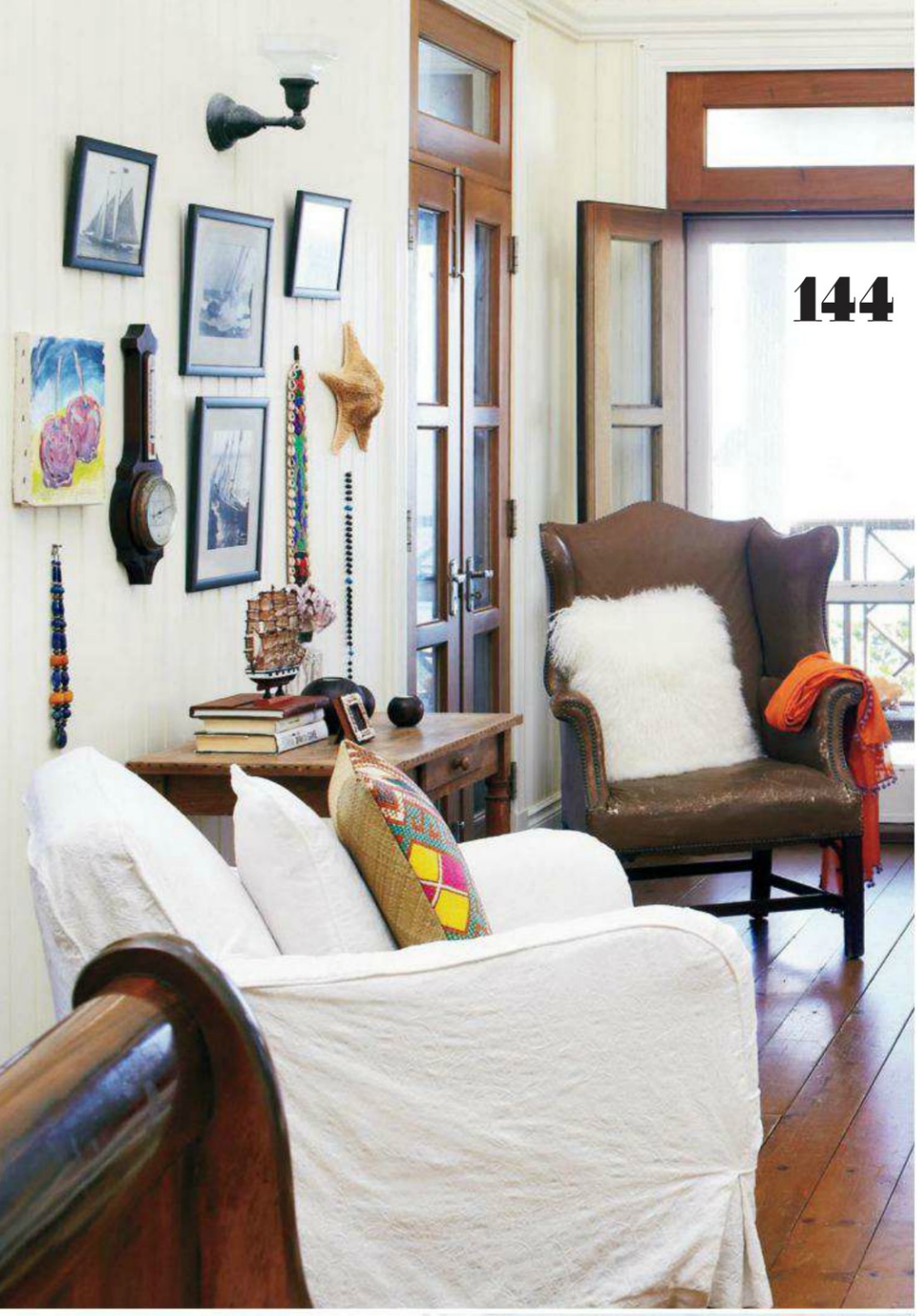

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I am writing this letter as close to deadline as I possibly can. The reason for procrastinating? Writing about decorating on a budget – the theme of this issue – is a touchy subject for me. My problem is that I covet. At work, I'm inundated with stunning homes, beautiful products, fabrics, wallpapers…the list goes on. Despite knowing better, my eyes play tricks on me. I always seem to gravitate to the most expensive piece of fabric, or the one chair that is authentic Mid-Century Modern. I picture how great a chocolate leather Mies van der Rohe Barcelona couch would look in my dark, Tudor-style living room, or even how a sleek Serge Mouille three-arm floor lamp would make a fantastic foil against this traditional backdrop, and then I'm lost. Eventually, of course, I come back down to earth and realize that these items are simply fantasies – after all, the reality is that I have to get a new roof instead.

But truth be told, I'm more than happy with the budget solutions I've come up with. I have an amazing over-scale black floor lamp from HomeSense that mimics the shape of the Mouille piece – and is $8,000 cheaper! I can also easily substitute my two dark brown velvet-upholstered armchairs for the Mies van der Rohe – at least for now.

In many ways, real-life decorating is essentially coming up with your dream design and finding a way to create the same look without spending a fortune. In this issue, I'm happy to share eight inspiring interiors with owners who have implemented a wealth of thrifty decorating ideas to great effect. Here's to making decor dreams come true – on a dime!

Erin

Erin McLaughlin erin@styleathome.com

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DESIGN ON A DIME

PUPPY LOVE

Every time a dog greets me at the door when I arrive at a photo shoot, I immediately fall in love. I became particularly fond of Vancouver jewellery designer Shereen de Rousseau's dog, Leo (shown at far right), for his uncanny resemblance to my Catahoula, Tallulah (shown at right). Shereen's amazing dog was rescued from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Tallulah, who was lucky enough to be spoiled since she was a puppy, came from a breeder not far from the Louisiana/Florida border. No one can describe the magic of Leo's rescue better than Shereen: "He came to us skinny and scared but has now grown into the most lovely little snuggle bunny. He is the poster child for the adoption of rescue dogs." So what do you think? Does it look like Tallulah and Leo have a kinship? One thing's for sure: They both love to pose for the camera. Check out Shereen's home, featured in this issue ("Soul Mates," page 130).

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH (PORTRAIT), JANIS NICOLAY (LEO), VIRGINIA MACDONALD (TALLULAH); HAIR & MAKEUP, MICHELLE ROSEN/JUDYINC.COM; CLOTHING, BCBGMAXAZRIA, BCBG.CA

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COASTAL **COLOURS**

I enjoyed the article about Debbie Travis's home in London's Chelsea neighbourhood (April 2012, page 88) but after reading what Debbie said, "When in Canada would you paint your house a fluorescent yellow?" I thought to myself, when you live on the Atlantic coast! St. John's and many other small East Coast towns are known for their colourful houses just a stone's throw from the ocean. You should visit sometime!

LEISHA HAWKER, VIA EMAIL

Check out our upcoming July 2012 issue for some inspiring East Coast designs!

OOPS!

In the story "First Time's the Charm" (May 2012, page 78), the bedroom's wall paint colour is Courtyard P5220-44 from Para Paints (para.com).

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TREASURE **HUNT**

As a fan of shabby chic decor, I was delighted to read "Colour Me Pretty" (April 2012, page 74) featuring the home of shop owners Joanna Goodman and Peggy Byron. I was even more delighted that one of my former Craigslist sales made it into the feature! If I'm not mistaken, the gorgeous and chicly refinished coffee table on page 78 used to sit in my front room (I bought it in its original 1940s state and painted it glossy black). When I moved, I let it go and continued my online and flea-market quest for "treasures just waiting to be painted," as Peggy says. I'm so happy to see this antique find in such a beautiful colour and home – I'm jealous!

ELISSA LANSDELL, VIA EMAIL

you could win!

The writer of this issue's favourite letter will receive a **Tassimo T20 Brewer!** Discover brewing perfection with its unique barcode technology. Enjoy delicious coffees, teas, cappuccinos and hot chocolate from top brands, all one cup at a time.

TOTAL VALUE: $170!

S@H READERS TWEET

"Just got my new issue of *Style at Home* and I'm loving every page! You guys keep getting better and better every month!"
@HomeBunch

"Perfect Saturday morning: slept in, now coffee and breakfast with the May issue of *Style at Home*. Pure bliss!"
@cherishtoronto

"Tonight's going to be a good night. The first issue of my *Style at Home* subscription has arrived!"
@AlanaFirestone

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we love to hear from you!

Email us at letters@styleathome.com or write to us at *Style at Home*, Letters from Home, 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Suite 100, Toronto, Ont. M2N 6S7.

The Hamburg dining collection adds a timeless elegance to your dining space by displaying massive, bold forms in rustic acacia wood.

HAMBURG | Dining table
$749

HAMBURG Dining chair **$179**
Sideboard **$999**

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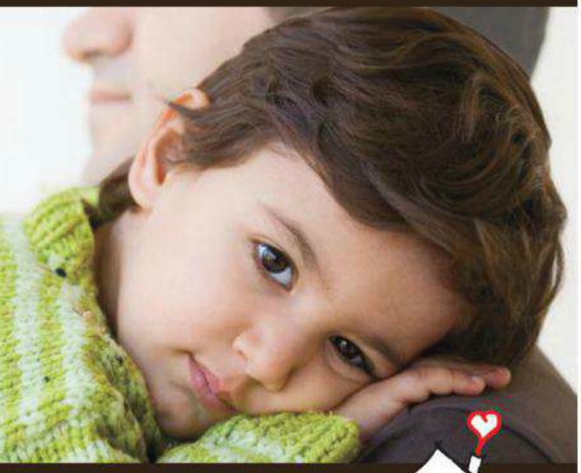
Our commitment to comfort



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DATE WITH *style*

Don't miss *Style at Home* editors and designers on television and at these events.

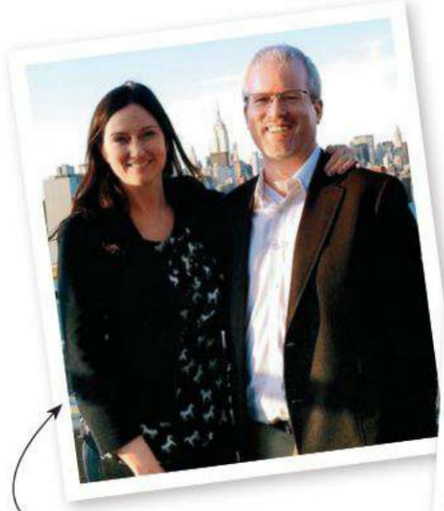
Watch editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** on CBC's *Steven and Chris*. For air dates and times, check your local listings or go to cbc.ca/stevenandchris.

Editor-in-chief **ERIN MCLAUGHLIN** on set with Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman.

WE'RE ON TV!

Catch design editor **Jessica Waks** and style and food editor **Tara Ballantyne** on Citytv's *CityLine* on May 22. Check your local listings for showtimes or go to citytv.com/cityline.

WISH YOU **WERE HERE!**



Associate editor **Sara Cation** (far left) and editorial assistant **Eryn Chesney** (far right) with Moji and Kirsten Korhani after the Korhani Home runway show at Toronto's World MasterCard Fashion Week. Check out more behind-the-scenes photos on page 58.

Editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** poses with the president of Samsung Electronics Canada, James Politeski, while at the Hotel on Rivington in New York City for the Wireless Audio event.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (JESSICA & TARA)

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WIN A **EUROPEAN VACATION** with *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin. For more details, see page 125 or visit **styleathome.com/eatshopdecorate.**

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TAKE OUR HIGH or LOW QUIZ

styleathome.com/highlowquiz

IS THIS ROOM **HIGH OR LOW?**

online this month
styleathome.com

23 decorating tips FROM OUR EDITORS

styleathome.com/23decoratingtips

WIN THIS!

Fruits & Passion Prize Pack

This month, you could win one of three Fruits & Passion prize packs. Celebrate the beauty of the season with Fruits & Passion's Tulip collection and infuse spring freshness throughout your home. This floral fragrance marries gardenias and orchids to create a breath of fresh air.

TO ENTER, VISIT STYLEATHOME.COM/NEWSLETTER.

Sign up for any of the *Style at Home* e-newsletters and you'll automatically be entered into our monthly e-newsletter subscriber contest for your chance to win great prizes!

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SOMEONE'S BEEN DOING THE HERBAL

get outside!

Get inspired by the chic look of the Riviera and entertain outdoors with stylish and affordable decor items from HomeSense. All at up to 60% less* every day.

GRACIOUS GOURMET
Graphic black and white patterned melamine dishes are an affordable way to add a trendy touch to your outdoor table. **Starting at $2.99.** Compare at $5 & up.

SHELL CHIC
Set a pair of glass hurricane candlesticks on the dining table to create a dramatic centrepiece. **$49.99 each.** Compare at $80 each.

PATTERN PRAISE
Combine indoor and outdoor cushions in crisp shades of white, green and blue to enhance your outdoor living space. **$24.99.** Compare at $48.

SEAT SAVVY
Indoor dining chairs with a metallic sheen add a comfortable and glamorous touch to your outdoor events. **$199.99.** Compare at $400.

COLOUR PLAY
Create a setting for your outdoor dining space by mixing and matching a variety of blue and white patterned rugs under your table. **$59.99.** Compare at $100.

PLAY *Splurge* VS steal ONLINE!

Test your design skills and play Splurge vs. Steal online at **styleathome.com/homesense**

You could WIN a **$5,000 HomeSense shopping spree** to help update your décor and a consultation with Erin McLaughlin, Editor-in-chief of Style at Home. Plus, great weekly prizes!

Scan the QR code to visit the mobile site and play the game.

Hurry! Play the game before it ends on May 14th for your chance to win!

HOMESENSE®

No purchase necessary. Must be legal Canadian resident of the age of majority in their province or territory. Contest ends on May 14, 2012. Visit www.styleathome.com/homesense for complete rules. Void where prohibited. Styles will vary by store. Items are representative of merchandise available in HomeSense stores. *All comparisons are to department and specialty store prices.

stylenews

Decor, trends, style ideas and more – we bring you the latest and greatest inspirations.

punch line

Style and food editor Tara Ballantyne has plenty of tricks up her sleeve when it comes to entertaining on a dime. Here, she reveals an easy and inexpensive way to gussy up every-day paper plates for your next outdoor gathering: Simply use a circle hole punch to create a polka-dot border along the rim of a paper plate. Tara proves that you can create something beautiful out of something ordinary. Experiment with different colours of paper plates and hole punch designs for varied interest. You'll love the final result – and so will your guests!

For more budget outdoor entertaining ideas, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/BUDGETENTERTAINING.**

EXTRA, EXTRA!

USE THE LEFTOVER CIRCLES AS CONFETTI TO SCATTER AROUND YOUR DINING TABLE.

PHOTOGRAPHY, TRINE THORSEN; STYLING, TARA BALLANTYNE

absolutely riveting

Phillip Jeffries Rivets 5715 **WALLPAPER** in Silver on Mink Sateen Club, $159 per yard, through designers, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics, crownwallpaper.com.

THE RIVET PATTERN MIMICS NAILHEADS – AN EMBELLISHMENT EMBRACED BY DESIGNERS.

Phillip Jeffries Rivets 5700 **WALLPAPER** in Gold on Navy Manila Hemp, $159 per yard, through designers, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics, crownwallpaper.com.

Phillip Jeffries Rivets 5713 **WALLPAPER** in Silver on Japanese Paper Weave, $159 per yard, through designers, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics, crownwallpaper.com.

Raised metallic-painted rivets adorn this stunning range of woven wallpapers from Phillip Jeffries to create a geometric pattern with incredible depth. If the 20 unique combos of rivet colours and backgrounds aren't enough, you can customize your own!

OUT OF THE BLUE

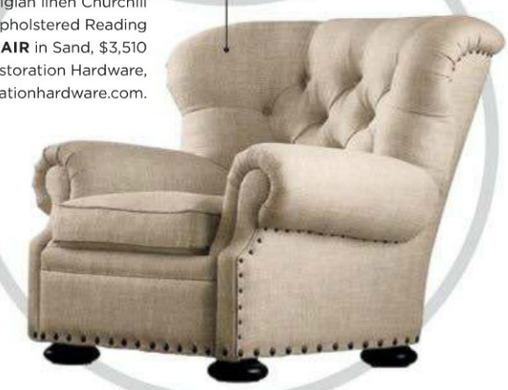
KNOWN FOR ITS LOVE OF NEUTRALS, RESTORATION HARDWARE HAS NOW ENTERED THE HOUSE OF BLUES WITH A NEW COLLECTION OF CLASSICS AVAILABLE IN RICH SHADES OF INDIGO AND AZURE.

Belgian linen Os De Mouton **WING CHAIR** in Azure, $1,990 US, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.

NOW

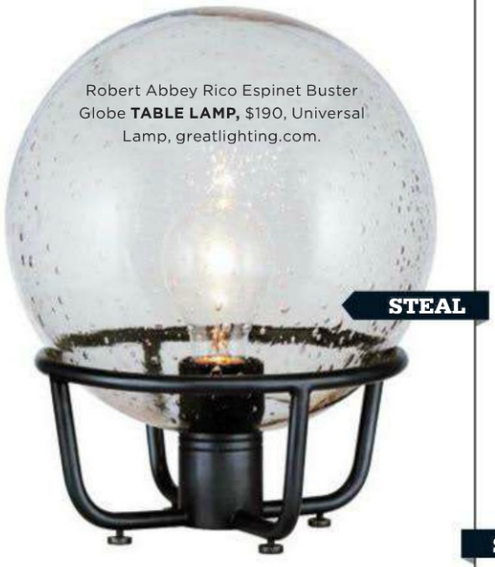
THEN

Belgian linen Churchill Upholstered Reading **ARMCHAIR** in Sand, $3,510 US, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.



IN ORB-IT

DOUBLING AS SCULPTURES, THESE GLASS ORB-SHAPED TABLE LAMPS ARE FAR FROM WHAT YOU'D TRADITIONALLY EXPECT AND ADD SERIOUS EDGE TO YOUR DECOR. POSITION THE CROCHETED CABLE OF BOCCI'S 28D ON YOUR COFFEE TABLE FOR YOUR OWN ONE-OF-A-KIND ART PIECE, OR TRY PERCHING THE ROBERT ABBEY LAMP ON A CONSOLE FOR AN INDUSTRIAL GLOW.

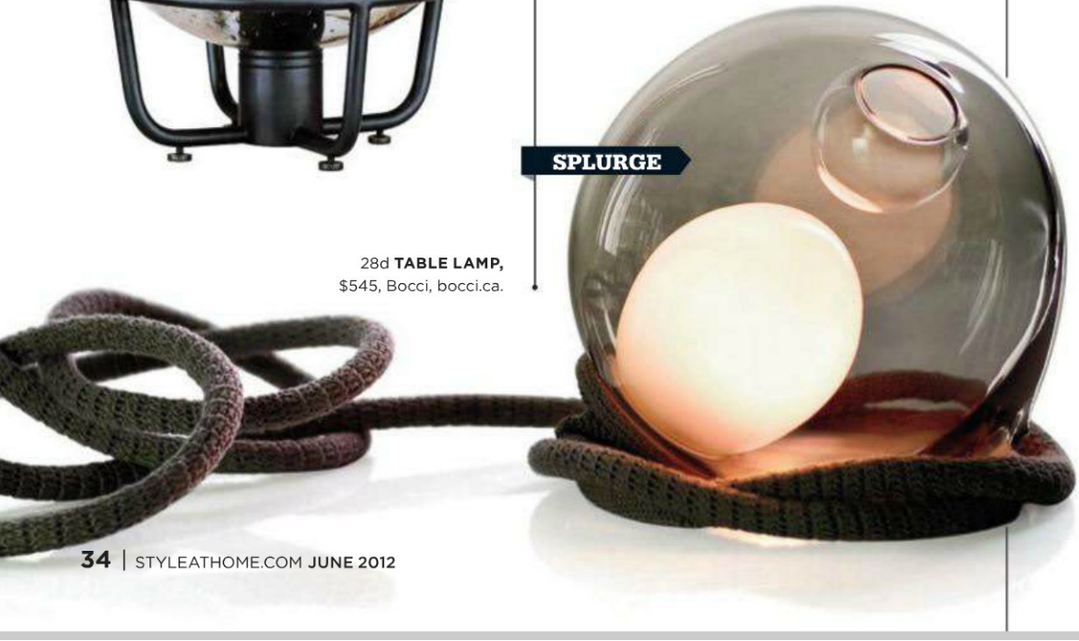


Robert Abbey Rico Espinet Buster Globe **TABLE LAMP,** $190, Universal Lamp, greatlighting.com.

STEAL

SPLURGE

28d **TABLE LAMP,** $545, Bocci, bocci.ca.



KELLY'S AT IT AGAIN

Kelly Wearstler's latest collection of fabrics for Groundworks is sure to be another designer favourite, with an array of striking graphic patterns in inviting colours and textures, such as Oblique, a daring diagonal-striped velvet.

Kelly Wearstler for Groundworks Oblique **FABRIC,** $496 per yard, through designers, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom, leejofa.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (FABRICS)

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100 calories for both

THERE'S SO MUCH TO *gain* WITH SPECIAL K*

It's true. You can enjoy two of these yummy treats and still stay on track.† Each Special K* Fruit Crisp is lightly-iced with a real fruit filling centre for a total of 100 calories for 2 crisps (25g). Sound delicious, don't they? And so are the many other ways we can help you look and feel your best. Discover them all at **SpecialK.ca**

† As part of healthy eating, portion controlled Special K* snacks may help you achieve and maintain a healthy body weight.

Arion **TABLE LAMP,** $620 US, DwellStudio, dwellstudio.com.

Arc **FLOOR LAMP,** $249, Structube, structube.com.

SPLURGE

STEAL

ARC ANGELS

The classic form of the iconic arc floor lamp goes glam in a smaller table version finished in vintage brass with a snow marble base.

Mutina Pico **TILES** in Red Dots/Blanc, from $12 per sq. ft., Stone Tile, stone-tile.com.

on the dotted line

Ceramics are embracing the versatile polka dot, revealing a dash of unexpected coral through a soothing white surface. Try this textured matte tile for a quirky kitchen backsplash.

A PLAYFUL DOTTED PORCELAIN VASE KEEPS YOUR FLORALS FROM FEELING TOO SERIOUS.

Alessi Aldo **VASE,** $321, Bergo Designs, bergo.ca.

STEAL

Bridget **RUG,** from $236, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

André Arbus Medallions **RUG** in Zircon, from $5,950, Weavers Art, weaversart.com.

SPLURGE

SILVER DOLLAR

With grey showing no signs of slowing down as decor's go-to neutral, these silvery-blue rugs in unique graphic designs are eye-catching choices to ground a room.

BARISTA-WORTHY BREW

DUAL BOILERS OFFER PRECISE CUSTOMIZATION OF TEMPERATURE AND STRENGTH, WHILE BREVILLE'S MODERN DESIGN RIVALS THAT OF YOUR LOCAL COFFEE HOUSE'S GEAR – ALL AT A COMPARATIVELY AFFORDABLE PRICE.

Dual Boiler **ESPRESSO MACHINE,** $1,400, Breville, breville.ca.

BRASS TACKS

ADD THE WARMTH OF GOLD AND BRASS, WHICH ARE HOTTER THAN EVER, TO YOUR KITCHEN WITH THESE SLEEK SPOUTS. KOHLER'S KARBON HAS THREE PIVOT POINTS TO ALLOW FOR A RANGE OF EXACT ANGLES, WHILE DELTA FAUCET'S TRINSIC HAS A PULL-DOWN WAND.

STEAL

Trinsic Single Handle Pull-Down **KITCHEN FAUCET** in Champagne Bronze, $550, Delta Faucet, deltafaucet.ca.

SPLURGE

Karbon Articulating Deck-Mount **KITCHEN FAUCET** in Vibrant Moderne Brushed Gold, $1,921, Kohler, kohler.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (TILES)

Introducing the next generation of Vaseline® Total Moisture™ lotions. Now with pure naturals and Stratys-3® Multi-layer moisture, our new formulas infuse moisture deep down*, absorbing quickly. Try Aloe Fresh for a light feel and fresh skin, Dry Skin for a clean feel and soft skin and Cocoa Radiant™ for a rich feel and glowing skin.

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*Stratum corneum (multi-layer surface skin)

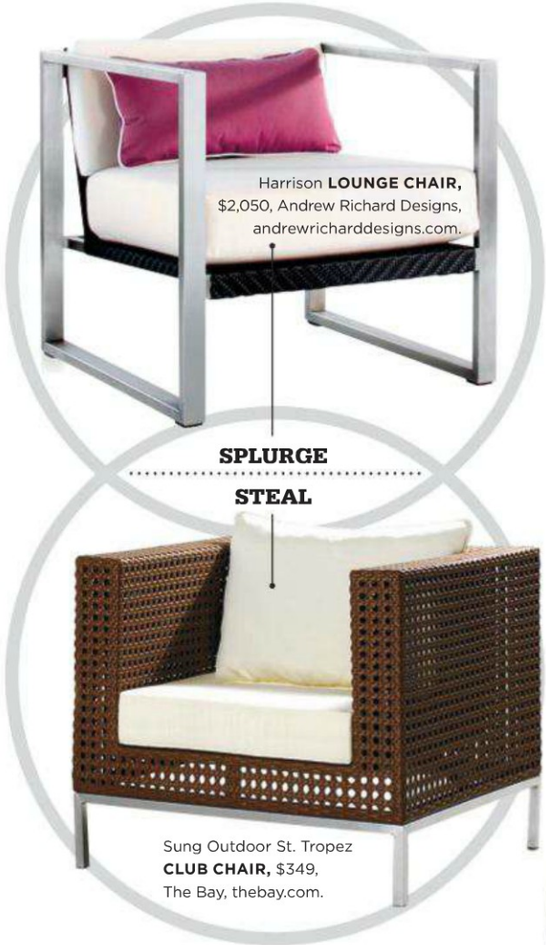
THE GREAT OUTDOORS

New items that make stylish summer living and entertaining a snap.

Catalina **SOFA** with casters, $2,999, Marimekko **TOSS CUSHIONS & POUFFES,** from $30, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

couch surfer

Siestas will never be the same with the Catalina sofa and colourful Marimekko cushions and pouffes that are constructed to weather the elements, rain or shine.



Harrison **LOUNGE CHAIR,** $2,050, Andrew Richard Designs, andrewricharddesigns.com.

SPLURGE

STEAL

Sung Outdoor St. Tropez **CLUB CHAIR,** $349, The Bay, thebay.com.

WICKER PARK

A MIX OF ALL-WEATHER FAUX WICKER AND COOL METAL FRAMES MAKES THESE SLEEK CHAIRS A DYNAMIC ADDITION TO YOUR DECK.

STACKING THE DECK

When you need a spot to stash your cocktail or novel while catching some rays, this powder-coated steel side table is a colourful choice that can be moved around and stored with ease.

PC Home Stackable **SIDE TABLE,** $15, Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore, realcanadiansuperstore.ca.

Acrylic Margarita **GLASSES,** $3 each, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

ICE BALLS, $10 US per set of 4, Prepara, prepara.com.

HAPPY HOUR

FANCY YOURSELF A SANGRIA SIPPER OR MARGARITA MAVEN? THESE ACRYLIC GLASSES LOOK LIKE LUXE CUT CRYSTAL, AND THEIR DURABLE CONSTRUCTION MEANS NO CRACKS OR BREAKS. AT YOUR NEXT ALFRESCO DINNER, GARNISH YOUR COCKTAIL CREATIONS WITH INNOVATIVE ICE BALLS CONTAINING FRUITS AND HERBS FOR EXTRA CREDIT!

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (MARGARITA GLASSES)

Stay refreshed all summer with the perfect pink sangria. Visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/PINKSANGRIA.**

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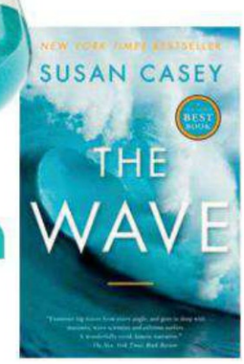
THE trend IS

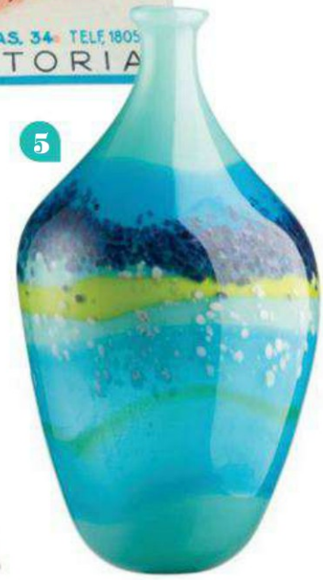
aegean blue

This summer's cool hue takes us to the exotic islands of Greece, where sea and sky sing the bright blues and it never sounds sad.



OUR INSPIRATION

This tribal-inspired dress from the BCBGMAXAZRIA (bcbg.ca) summer collection reminds us of the dreamy Aegean Sea with its mix of azure, turquoise, indigo and silver.



1 Waves **DESK CUP,** $145 US, John Derian Company, johnderian.com.

2 Ikat **MOSAIC TILE** in Loom, $184 per sq. ft., New Ravenna Mosaics, newravenna.com.

3 **HOURGLASS** in Celadon, $25, Indigo, Chapters, indigo.ca.

4 *The Wave* **BOOK** by Susan Casey, $33, Indigo, Chapters, indigo.ca.

5 Jada **VASE,** $60, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

6 Tera Gear Bubba Q **GRILL** in Blue, $29, Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore, realcanadiansuperstore.ca.

7 Everyday Essentials **DRINK DISPENSER,** $15, Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore, realcanadiansuperstore.ca.

8 Beth Ditto Zoom Lash **MASCARA** in Blue Charge, $18, M.A.C, maccosmetics.com.

9 Outdoor Summer Wave **TOSS CUSHION,** $24, West Elm, westelm.com.

10 Elephant Ceramics **VASES** in Turquoise, from $19, West Elm, westelm.com.

11 Hotel Paramo **TRAY,** $88 US, John Derian Company, johnderian.com.

PRODUCER, AMANDA ETTY; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (MOSAIC TILE)

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CANADA POST POSTES CANADA

*No purchase necessary. Contest runs from 12:00:00 a.m. EST on May 1, 2012 to 11:59:59 p.m. EST January 31, 2013. Contest is open to individuals resident in Canada over the age of majority in their province or territory of residence who are active epost users and who have subscribed to at least two epost mailer bills throughout the previous 60 days. There are a total of 9 prizes available to be won each with a value of CAD $1,000. There will be one prize draw per month during the contest period. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. Selected entrants must answer a mathematical skill testing question and sign a release. Full contest rules available at: epost.ca/contestrules.

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PRODUCER TARA BALLANTYNE | **TEXT** SUZANNE MOUTIS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JOE KIM

STRAWBERRY, RHUBARB & mascarpone crepes

A not-too-sweet sensory indulgence infused with the first delightful offerings of summer.

THIS IS THE KIND of treat that makes us think of the halcyon days when an after-school snack was the best taste of the day. With its fruity homemade goodness and its light and airy appeal, this combination of rhubarb, cream and the season's first strawberries is the modern, sophisticated sister of the beloved elementary-school jam and bread. It is, in fact, a new kind of comfort food that's destined to become a family staple. If this is the way summer starts, we hope it never ends.

Throw a delicious pastry party with these delectable fruit-filled recipes. Visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/PASTRYPARTY.**

RECIPE DEVELOPMENT & FOOD STYLING, TARA BALLANTYNE; PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

The recipe for excitement starts with you!

Join the **Real Women of Philadelphia** community for friends, food, and contests!
Together, we can enrich your life.

real women of KRAFT PHILADELPHIA .ca

Scan for a message from Anna Olson.

JOIN IN

JELL-Oh baby that's good.

Oh, it's real good! You didn't think JELL-O could satisfy your craving now that you're a proper adult, did you? Well, think again JELL-O Mousse Temptations are every bit as indulgent as any other dessert you've turned to, with 60 calories per 65g cup. We'd like to think that's pretty good.

Find them in the refrigerated section.

INGREDIENTS
MAKES 4 CREPES

FOR STRAWBERRY RHUBARB COMPOTE

- 2½ cups fresh rhubarb cut into 1" chunks
- 2 cups fresh strawberries, hulled and cut in half
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp lemon zest
- ¼ tsp cinnamon

FOR MASCARPONE FILLING

- 1 cup heavy cream
- ½ vanilla bean, seeds scraped out
- ½ cup mascarpone cheese

FOR CREPES

- ½ cup 2% milk
- ½ cup water
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup all-purpose flour, sifted
- ¼ tsp salt
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- ⅛ tsp nutmeg
- ¼ vanilla bean, seeds scraped out
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil

Icing sugar for garnish

DIY DECOR
To colour the handle of a wooden spoon, dip the end in Easter egg dye and let dry thoroughly before using.

PREP TIME 30 MINUTES

STRAWBERRY, RHUBARB & MASCARPONE CREPES

1. TO MAKE THE COMPOTE, place the rhubarb, strawberries, sugar, lemon juice and zest in a medium-sized saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring frequently, until the mixture is bubbly. Reduce the heat to low and continue cooking for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove the pan from the heat and add the cinnamon, stirring well to combine. Set aside.

2. FOR THE MASCARPONE FILLING, combine the cream and the vanilla seeds in a large bowl. Beat the mixture with an electric mixer set on high speed until soft peaks form. Turn the mixer to medium speed and add the mascarpone cheese a spoonful at a time until fully incorporated into the cream. Set aside.

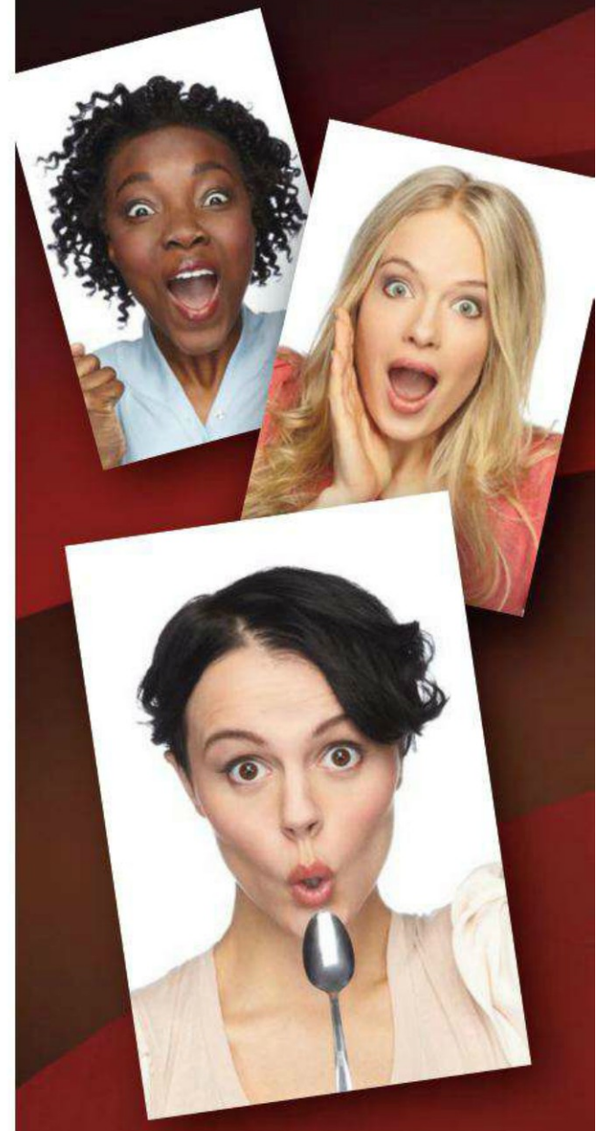
3. TO MAKE THE CREPES, whisk together the milk, water and eggs in a large mixing bowl until well combined.

4. GRADUALLY ADD IN THE FLOUR a few spoonfuls at a time, whisking constantly, until no lumps remain. Whisk in the salt, melted butter, nutmeg and vanilla seeds, beating until smooth.

5. HEAT THE VEGETABLE OIL in a large frying pan over medium heat. Pour approximately ¼ cup of the batter into the pan and tilt the pan in a circular motion so that the batter evenly coats the surface all around. Cook the crepe for about 2 minutes, until the bottom is lightly browned. Loosen and flip the crepe with a spatula and cook the other side for 1 to 2 minutes.

6. PLACE EACH CREPE on a plate. Top with ¼ cup of the compote and 1 to 2 tablespoons of the mascarpone filling. Fold the other half of the crepe over to cover. Spoon a few teaspoons of strawberry syrup overtop. Garnish with icing sugar if desired.

What's your JELL-O face?



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PEOPLE ALWAYS *ask us*

This issue, the stars of the TV show *Steven and Chris* show you how to create a bold living room on a budget.

We love pattern and colour in the living room, but that doesn't mean you have to commit to a bright blue sofa or a giant patterned rug.

concept

A high-impact space is within everyone's budget. Start with neutral big-ticket items and go bold with more affordable, colourful accessories.

Steven Sabados and **Chris Hyndman** are the hosts of the lifestyle show *Steven and Chris*. Watch them weekdays at 2 p.m. on CBC. Catch editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** monthly on the show as a guest expert. If you have a design dilemma, email Steven and Chris at asksteven-andchris@cbc.ca.

Show off your prettiest mementoes in clear glass boxes. You can change up the contents on a whim!

DISPLAY BOXES, from $10, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

Big box stores offer all kinds of stylish lighting options. We found this sleek number in a brushed-steel finish at Walmart.

TABLE LAMP, $12, Walmart, walmart.ca.

Create a feature wall with some global flair. Pair store-bought steals with treasures from your own travels.

Papier-mâché Animal **SCULPTURE,** from $129, West Elm, westelm.com.

Be adventurous when decorating your walls – don't just stick to paintings and framed photos. These handwoven bowls create an eye-catching display when hung in a group.

Decorative Bowl **WALL ART,** $49, West Elm, westelm.com.

Accent toss cushions are the easiest and least expensive way to add character to your space. Go bold and always mix and match!

Hand-blocked Diamond **TOSS CUSHION COVERS,** from $34, West Elm, westelm.com.

Hit up your local paint store's mis-tint section for great deals – up to 50 percent off! Here, we selected a deep, rich blue to allow the main neutral pieces to take centre stage.

Jazz Standard P5012-75D **WALL PAINT,** Para Paints, para.com.

RENDERING, OLIVIA HNATYSHIN

Check out more design solutions from this decorating duo. Visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/STEVENANDCHRIS.**

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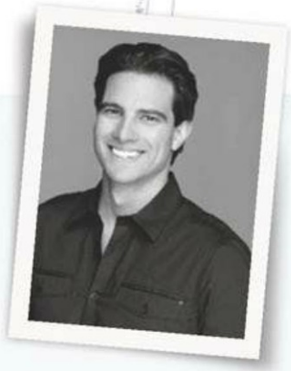

People used to hang out on their front porches and watch the world go by. Today, everyone seems to have moved on to their back decks, which can be integrated with a home's interior style but still complement the exterior, too. Here is some of the information you need to know before you build the perfect deck for your backyard.

TEXT SCOTT MCGILLIVRAY

deck design

I've seen everything – from multi-level decks with built-in bars and fancy water features to more simplified spaces that still look amazing but haven't cost a fortune to build. A deck maximizes your living space and can add value to your home – and if it's planned and built properly, it can last for decades. Determine what type of structure will best suit your needs. If you have a smaller property, a simple graduated deck with a step down to grass level can lend your yard architectural interest. If your space is larger and you crave some shade, a custom feature like a vine-covered pergola can transform your deck into something out of the pages of a magazine.

Scott chose PVC for his own backyard deck. The space has become a family favourite for entertaining.

building code basics

Building codes are critical when you're building a deck. Before you start your project, check with your municipality to see if you need a permit. A deck's foundation needs to be built on concrete footings that are at the proper depth and correctly spaced and levelled. You also need to install railings if your deck sits 24 inches or more above the ground. A good decking contractor should know and follow all of the mandatory building codes.

A deck can increase the value of your home and maximize your living space.

materials matter

The majority of decks built in Canada are constructed with pressure-treated lumber because it's the most affordable option. Look for wood that has not been treated with a chemical called CCA, or chromate copper arsenate, because it's known to cause health issues. It's also a good idea to handle all materials with gloves as a precaution. Pressure-treated woods require annual maintenance and sealing because they're not moisture resistant and turn grey quickly. For the installation of a basic deck, expect to pay a professional anywhere from $1,800 to $2,500.

A more expensive option like cedar has natural properties that help prevent damage from the elements. Despite the price tag of up to $3 per square foot – almost twice as much as pressure-treated wood – it's an investment that is not completely maintenance-free and will still need to be sealed every couple of years. Be sure that you don't use cedar to create the foundation and framing under your deck because it's a softer wood and will not offer the support needed.

it's all in the details

Railings, stairs, posts, caps and balusters are some of the elements you can use to customize your deck. Mixing and matching materials is always an option, too. Wrought-iron balusters with copper caps, for example, are very appealing. Add some low-voltage outdoor lights to highlight your stairs, or stain your deck in a rich tone to lend a more sophisticated, urban look. Include extra seating and storage for your outdoor cushions or kids' toys and you can quickly create an outdoor room that is as relaxing as cottage country, all without the long drive.

new technology

There are some newer products on the market that are made from recycled materials and have the look of real wood. Composite and PVC are some of my favourite picks. Starting at $5 per square foot, they're a little pricier than wood, but they offer tons of great colour choices and the option of adding custom features, such as decorative inlays. Composite boards are also available in longer lengths, which means fewer cuts, and they can be fastened with a system that won't leave any visible nail or screw holes. They also won't rot or get mouldy and basically last forever. Companies like Solstice Decking (solsticedecking.com) offer amazing warranties on their PVC decking, and the materials won't stain or fade in the sun, unlike other products on the market.

Scott McGillivray is the host of HGTV's *Income Property*. Catch back-to-back episodes Thursdays at 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on HGTV.

PHOTOGRAPHY, TIM LEYES, COURTESY OF HGTV CANADA (PORTRAIT); ISTOCKPHOTO (GLOVES)

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$235 Handmade Fali Doll **FIGURINE,** Snob, snobstuff.com.

$22 Glass Galapagos **PLANTERS** with saucers, $11 each, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.

$415 Small polished-nickel Reeves **PENDANT LIGHT,** Elte, elte.com.

$135 William Yeoward green crystal **VASE,** Ribbehege & Azevedo, ribbehegeandazevedo.com.

$145 Stone **BOX,** Ribbehege & Azevedo, ribbehegeandazevedo.com.

$200 Leather Kenton Sorenson Portfolio **IPAD CASE,** Mjölk, mjolk.ca.

$349 Sustainable mango wood Baja Red **BENCH,** 59" x 13.5" x 17.5", CB2, cb2.ca.

$1,163 Traditional Persian 11035 **KILIM,** 4' x 9', Mond'art Rug Warehouse, mondart.ca.

HIGH $3,608

$375 L'Objet porcelain Pearle **BOWL,** Ribbehege & Azevedo, ribbehegeandazevedo.com.

$65 Hand-crafted ebony **VASE,** Ribbehege & Azevedo, ribbehegeandazevedo.com.

$85 Hand-crafted ebony **VASE,** Ribbehege & Azevedo, ribbehegeandazevedo.com.

$95 Woven **TRAY,** Snob, snobstuff.com.

$42 Glass Jus de Fruits **TUMBLERS,** $7 each, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

$114 Small rattan Harrison Lidded **BASKETS,** $38 each, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

$158 Crown wool-blend William **DOG BED,** My Pet Boutique, mypetboutique.com.

$10 **DOG TOY,** My Pet Boutique, mypetboutique.com.

$4 Hula girl **FIGURINE,** Value Village, valuevillage.ca.

$8 Earthenware Kardemumma **PLANTERS,** $4 each, IKEA, ikea.ca.

$118 Allen & Roth Bronze Edison **PENDANT LIGHT,** Lowe's, lowes.ca.

$10 Green glass **VASE,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$25 Vinyl Python **JEWELLERY BOX** in Grey, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.

$50 i-Con leather ASD iPad2Guard **IPAD CASE,** Future Shop, futureshop.ca.

$90 Solid beechwood-and-fibre-board Sigurd **BENCH** in Red, 45" x 17" x 18", IKEA, ikea.ca.

$399 Wool Persisk Kelim Gashgai **KILIM,** 6' x 8', IKEA, ikea.ca.

LOW $836

$15 White ceramic **BOWL,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$25 Iron Temple **VASES** (set of 3), CB2, cb2.ca.

$20 Woven **TRAY,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$12 Recycled-glass **TUMBLERS,** $2 each, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$18 Medium willow Camelia **BASKETS,** $6 each, JYSK Bed-Bath-Home, jysk.ca.

$40 Midwest Quiet Time Ombre **DOG BED** in Grey, Pet Valu, petvalu.com.

$4 **DOG TOY,** HomeSense, homesense.ca.

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2 Wool Persisk Hamadan **KILIM,** 3′ x 5′, $349, IKEA, ikea.ca.
3 Wool-and-cotton Persian Traditional 11038 **KILIM,** 5′ x 7′, $750, Mond'art Rug Warehouse, mondart.ca.
4 Wool Persisk Kelim Gashgai **KILIM,** 5′ x 7′, $399, IKEA, ikea.ca.

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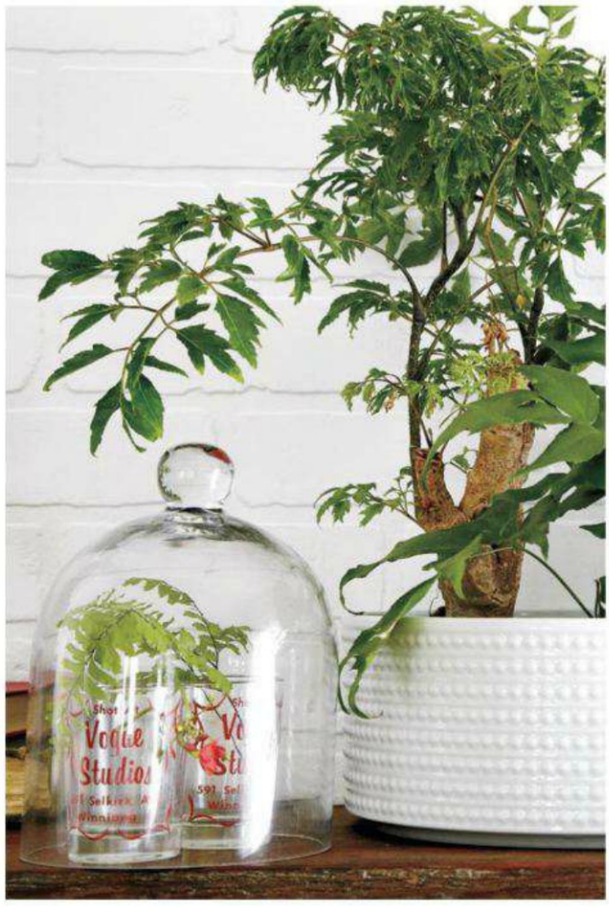

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SCISSOR HANDS

Just like chefs love their knives, crafters and decoristas have a myriad of scissors for every task at hand, from pinking to pruning to... scrapbooking, perhaps? Their patina gets more beautiful with age, so hang your most-used tools within easy reach when crafting or display your collection as a conversation starter.

Can't find the right shape of bench in a red you love? Find a secondhand bench on Craigslist or at an antiques market and paint it in your favourite shade of fire engine red.

red herring

Who needs paintings, sculptures or other works of art when you have a statement-making bench in a bold colour to use as extra seating or a side table?

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Chesapeake **BENCH,** Maine Cottage, mainecottage.com.

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Sustainable mango wood Baja Red **BENCH,** 59" x 14" x 18", CB2, cb2.ca.

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Solid beechwood-and-fibreboard Sigurd **BENCH,** 45" x 17" x 18", IKEA, ikea.ca.

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Moji Korhani, owner of Korhani Home, consults with wife and creative director Kirsten Korhani.

floor SHOW

TEXT SARA CATION

Breaking down the boundaries beween fashion and decor, Korhani Home turns textile trends into rugs *en vogue.* And what's more? These stylish floor coverings are flaunted on the runway each year – as clothes! Here, we follow the exciting process all the way from inspiration to execution.

Meet the fashionista of floors.

STYLE AT HOME What's one of your first memories of design?

KIRSTEN KORHANI I grew up in Germany and, when I was a kid, my mom, who was always fashionable, made all my clothes. When I was 6 or 7, she made me a little biker jacket out of this plastic material! She used to sew outfits that everyone else loved but I hated at the time. My mom made me high fashion, even before I knew what it was!

How did you meet Moji and become part of the family company, Korhani Home?

Moji and I went to high school in Hamburg together, but he went back to Canada after graduation. Ten years later, I got a call from Moji when I was in Milan. He was visiting Europe and I told him I was in Milan and to meet me there. I then visited him in Montreal, where he was living at the time. Shortly after, we married and moved to Toronto.

What are some of the highlights of working with your husband?

I see him every day and every night. It might sound like a drawback for some people but for us it's an advantage. We always have something to talk about – we brainstorm constantly. Even driving to the cottage on the long weekend, we can push business plans forward. It's a huge plus.

In what ways has your background in fashion changed the direction of Korhani Home?

Traditionally, you'd buy one rug for life, but I wanted to make it possible to change your rugs seasonally, like you do with your wardrobe. For summer, you could have a yellow or green rug with matching toss cushions and in the fall you might switch them out for warmer, moodier colours. I wanted to give customers the freedom to change their rooms without breaking the bank, so the rugs also needed to be affordable. It's important for us at Korhani Home to be accessible. We've expanded into toss cushions, doormats and, coming soon, other home accents!

And you've further linked fashion and home with Korhani Home's fashion show, which opened Toronto's World MasterCard Fashion Week this year. How did it all come together?

I start by collecting inspiration, which can come from anywhere: the Internet, travelling, magazines.... Then I pull mood boards together based on three different themes. Once my themes are chosen, I create patterns and pick colours for the rugs. After the rugs are produced, we work on turning them into garments.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

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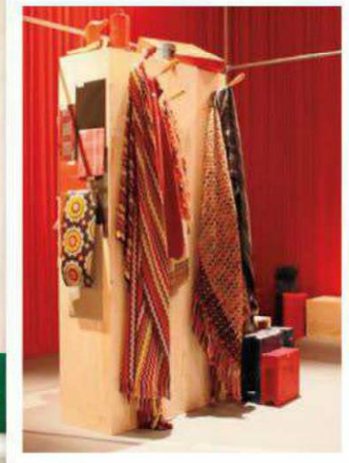
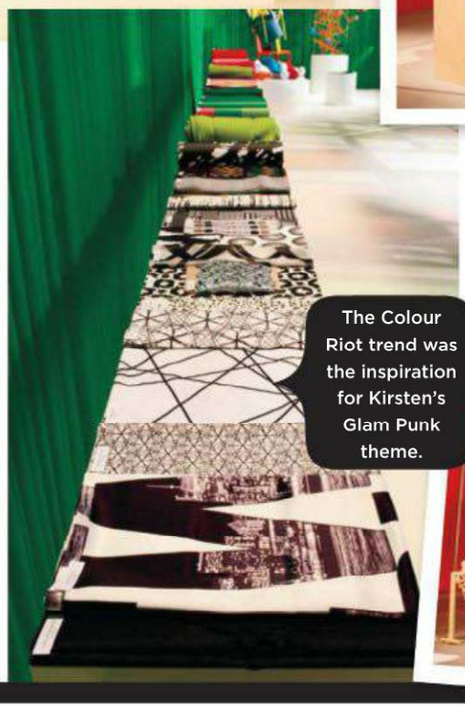
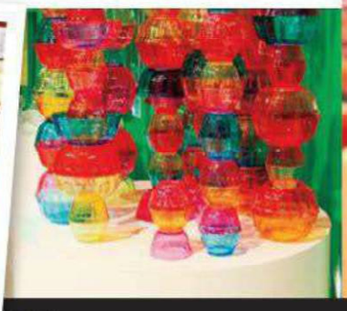


Where inspiration abounds.

This year, editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin and Kirsten (shown above) went trendspotting at Heimtextil. Held every January in Frankfurt, Germany, Heimtextil is the largest international trade fair for home and commercial textiles and an important pioneer of trends for the decor industry. Colour Riot, the trend shown here (and among Erin and Kirsten's favourites), boasts hues that are, in the words of the Heimtextil trends book, "fresh, bold and penetrating. They play with light and seem to have no boundaries."



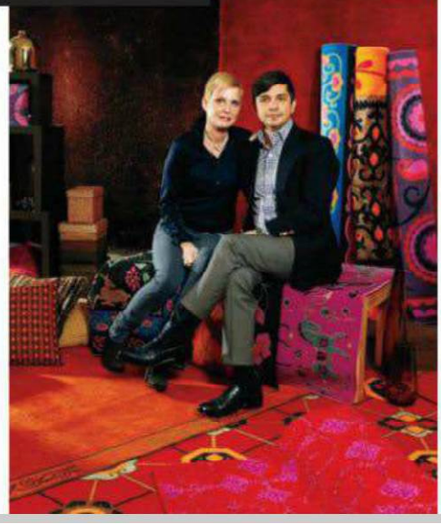
The Colour Riot trend was the inspiration for Kirsten's Glam Punk theme.



From collecting inspiration and choosing themes to designing the rugs and sewing and accessorizing the outfits, it takes a full team and considerable time to orchestrate this fashion show. In fact, before one collection has walked the runway, chances are Kirsten is already planning the next.

Down to the last detail.

After the rugs are produced, it takes six months to put the entire show together.



PHOTOGRAPHY, SEBASTIAN DRÜEN (HEIMTEXTIL), RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PREP WORK)

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Is it challenging to make garments out of rugs?

It's a long process. Sometimes you want something to work and it just doesn't. It's learning by doing and having a lot of backup plans.

Tell us about Heimtextil this year.

I've been going for the last six or seven years. It's really structured. They don't just throw stuff at you. You start by attending a trend forum with huge vignettes accompanied by lectures that talk about each trend, so when you go through the 10 different halls of vendors, you have a clear idea of what you're looking for.

How long did it take you and Erin to go through eveything?

We spent about three days there – I think one day alone at the trends forum and then the rest going through the various halls and attending small lectures. It's not like a typical trade show – and they hand out lots of Prosecco!

What theme struck you most?

The Dark Lux was a favourite trend for me. It had every shade that's close to black: night forest, gloomy burgundy, oxblood, dusky grey, twilight blue. It was a little creepy. The vignette had black orchids that looked like they were from another planet, dark leather chairs and smoke rising from the ground. We tried to take photos, but it was so dark that they didn't turn out. The trend actually inspired my Death in Venice theme for the fashion show.

Planning to make a splash!

In the mood?
Kirsten studies a mood board of her inspiration, fabrics and outfits in the workroom at Korhani Home's head office.

PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

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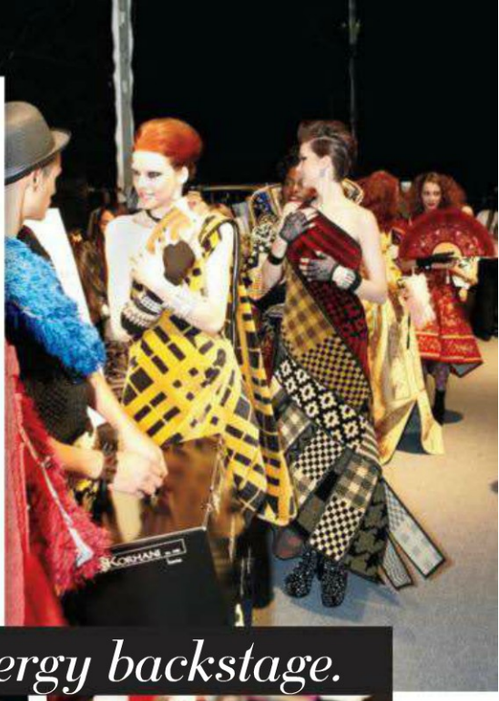
Backstage was teeming with many masks, makeup and models, oh my!

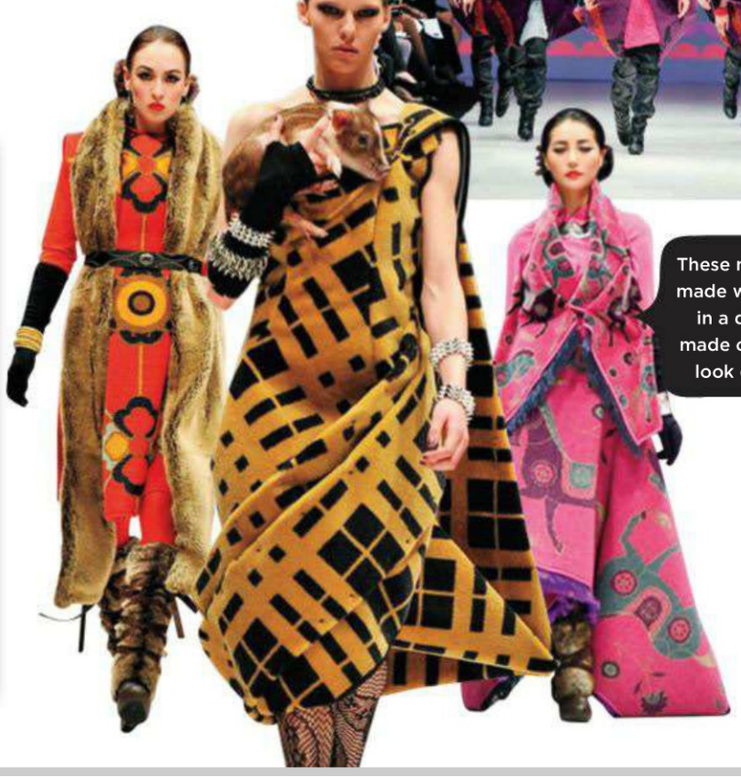


"It's hard to believe the chaos that unfolds behind the scenes when you see how perfectly choreographed each step looks out on the runway," says *Style at Home* art director Karen Paddon, who fought off flying rugs to give readers a peek at what happened backstage.

It's high energy backstage.

With three rug collections, three themes and three entirely different moods, Korhani Home exploded onto the runway with a contagious energy that left the audience enthralled. From Death in Venice (shown at left) to Moda Mongolia (shown at right) to Glam Punk (shown below, far left), each collection was a study in the strong connection between home decor and fashion.

The rugs are a runway hit!



These models made walking in a dress made of rugs look easy.

PHOTOGRAPHY, GEORGE PIMENTEL (RUNWAY); RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (BACKSTAGE)

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With its bright, fresh colours, this room really shines.

Big Time P5198-63, Para Paints, para.com.

Baby Rose P5091-63, Para Paints, para.com.

Heat Wave P5084-63, Para Paints, para.com.

Taking the rugs from runway to room.

Black and white but colour all over. A bright and colourful rug with a big, bold pattern calls for furniture that doesn't demand attention. To make it interesting, use two neutrals, like the black and white used here, with sleek finishes that aren't highly textured. The curves in the chairs and pedestal table echo the swirly shapes of the Suzani-style rug, which will be available across Canada this fall.

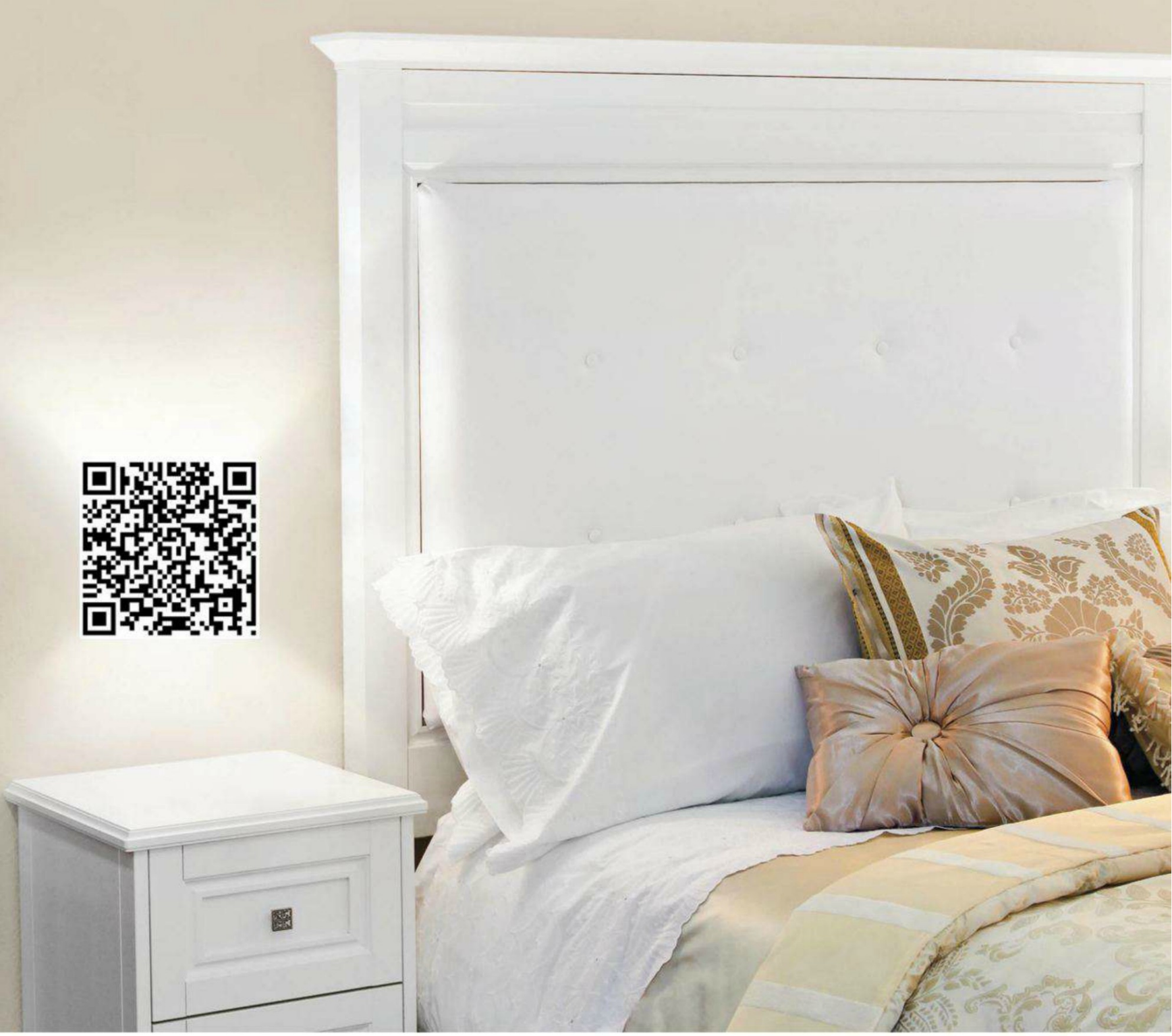
Bolero P5197-24 **WALL PAINT,** Para Paints, para.com; **TABLE,** Elte, elte.com; **CHAIRS,** Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca; **PENDANT LIGHT,** IKEA, ikea.ca; **VASE, BOWL, VESSEL,** Hollace Cluny, hollacecluny.ca.

For more info on Korhani Home, visit korhani.com.

One of the most photographed outfits at the Korhani Home fashion show, this pink, purple and red rug from the Moda Mongolia collection is also among Kirsten's favourite designs. "That pink has such a vibrancy to it," she says.

What did we think of the show? Visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/KORHANIHOME.**

PHOTOGRAPHY, GEORGE PIMENTEL (RUNWAY), RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (ROOM, PAINT)



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Christine's guide to

OUTDOOR ROOMS

PRODUCER CHRISTINE HANLON

There's a whole world of outdoor furniture and accessories out there durable enough to withstand anything Mother Nature lets loose. Whether you have a small terrace or a sweeping backyard, contributing design editor Christine Hanlon picks the best of the crop to make the most of your outdoor living space.

THE LOOK Inspired by the traditional courtyards of Europe, this look is elegant and tailored and possesses old-world charm and romantic details. Think formal clipped hedges, ornate fountains, wrought-iron garden benches and stone pathways. When choosing furniture for your space, look for sets with neoclassical motifs, such as X-backs or scrolls. Accessorize with clay planters filled with boxwood and ivy, hurricane lanterns and whimsical elements like garden fairies or gnomes.

TEXT, AMANDA ETTY; PHOTOGRAPHY, THOMAS LOOF/TRUNK ARCHIVE

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What is an outdoor room?

With only four short months – at most – of warm weather, we Canadians know how to delight in every outdoor minute, but do we take advantage of every inch of outdoor space, too? No matter the size, think of your yard as an extension of the indoors. Picture the components that make up your living and dining rooms: floors, walls, furniture, rugs and decorative accessories. But how do you create these spaces under the sun? Here are the elements you need to build the ultimate retreat.

STRUCTURE • create the space

START WITH A LOW-MAINTENANCE FLOOR of stone, interlocking brick or pea gravel to define the dimensions of your outdoor room. (Remember to place black landscape fabric under your floor to keep weeds from sprouting through.) Once the flooring is installed, include elements like a pergola, gazebo or even outdoor-friendly drapery to add shade and more structure to the space.

Sunbrella outdoor **DRAPERY,** Restoration Hardware, restoration-hardware.com.

PLANTINGS • add colour

IN EUROPEAN COURTYARDS, SCULPTURAL TOPIARIES AND HEDGES more than make up for the lack of colour and blooms. Clipped evergreens, such as boxwood and cedar, provide year-round interest. Faux options are readily available and mix seamlessly with the real stuff to offer a great low-maintenance alternative. Incorporate a few small pots of lavender here and there to add delicate wisps of colour and pleasing fragrance.

Faux boxwood **TOPIARY,** Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore, realcanadiansuperstore.ca.

STYLING TIP
FAUX BOXWOOD IS A GREAT LOW-MAINTENANCE CHOICE!

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU BUY

1. Consider your needs and lifestyle. How do you use your outdoor space? Do you entertain outside during the summer? Do you have kids?

2. Be realistic about the space you have. Do you have a large backyard or a small balcony? Do you have enough room for a complete outdoor living and dining room set or just a small bistro table and chairs?

3. Go out with a plan – make a list. What do you need? How much are you willing to spend? Are you starting from scratch or updating what you already have?

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FURNITURE & ACCESSORIES

1

2

STYLING TIP
USE AN ORNATE MIRROR TO INTRODUCE SPARKLE AND REFLECT LIGHT.

3

STYLING TIP
OBELISKS ARE OFTEN USED TO TRAIN VINES, BUT WE LIKE THEM UNADORNED.

4

5

6

7

8

9

WROUGHT-IRON FURNISHINGS with X-back frames and curved edges dominate in the neoclassical courtyard. Wrought iron is an attractive choice for outdoor furniture. It's also substantial and weighty, so it may not be well suited to all spaces. Try any of these materials for your outdoor room as they do equally well at weathering the storms.

TEAK One of the best materials for outdoor furniture, teak is durable and won't rot or mildew. Over time, it will turn to a natural grey finish, which is part of its beauty. The original colour can be restored by applying teak oil.

CAST ALUMINUM The perfect metal for outdoor furniture, it's lightweight yet durable, requires little maintenance and doesn't rust. It's usually powder coated for strength.

SYNTHETIC WICKER/RATTAN Synthetic wicker/rattan offers the look of the real thing without the maintenance. Typically woven around a metal frame, this man-made material is strong and colourfast.

PLASTIC A delight for the space (and budget) conscious, plastic furniture is often foldable, stackable and lightweight. Available in many styles and colours, it's washable and easy to care for, making it a low-maintenance choice.

SHOPPING LIST 1 Scroll **OBELISK,** Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca. 2 Manor House **MIRROR,** Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com. 3 Venetian **LOUNGE CHAIR,** Hauser, hauserstores.com. 4 Geometric **TOSS CUSHION** in Ecru, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com. 5 Angelo Decor Primrose **FOUNTAIN,** The Home Depot, homedepot.ca. 6 Haws Copper **WATERING CAN,** Lee Valley Tools, leevalley.com. 7 Klismos outdoor **DINING TABLE,** Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com. 8 **GNOME,** Pier 1 Imports, pier1.ca. 9 **LANTERN,** Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore, realcanadiansuperstore.ca.

GLOSSARY

fretwork • *n.* Ornamental openwork created with a fretsaw or scroll saw. Often used in furniture or metal decorations.

galvanized • *adj.* Iron, steel or aluminum that has been coated with a thin layer of zinc; rust resistant.

topiary • *n.* 1 Horticultural art. 2 Any shaped plant acting as sculpture. Common forms include geometric (spheres, squares, rectangles, cones) and whimsical (animal) shapes.

Make your outdoor space the perfect retreat with stylish furniture. Visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/OUTDOORFURNITURE.**

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Beauti & the spaces

PAINT COLOURS
FROM LEFT: BEAUTI-TONE STYLE AT HOME COUNTRY COLOUR COLLECTION WATERSKI FD015, PROM DRESS FD010 AND IRISH SEA FD036, HOME HARDWARE, HOMEHARDWARE.CA. PICK UP A BOOKLET AT YOUR LOCAL STORE TO VIEW ALL 50 PAINT COLOURS.

It's a tale as old as time: a room so cold and unwelcoming that guests seem to shy away from visits. But the right shade of Beauti-Tone Paint, like the ones in the new Style at Home Country Colour Collection, can make even the beastliest space ready for human contact. The gentle, casual hues of these beauties bring out the best in any style – from country to contemporary – with soft, effortless colours that are timelessly appealing, proving that (in this fairy tale, anyway) beauty *is* only wall deep.

TEXT, SARA CATION; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA; ROOM DESIGNS, ERIN MCLAUGHLIN & ANN MARIE FAVOT

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No. 1
ODD COUPLE

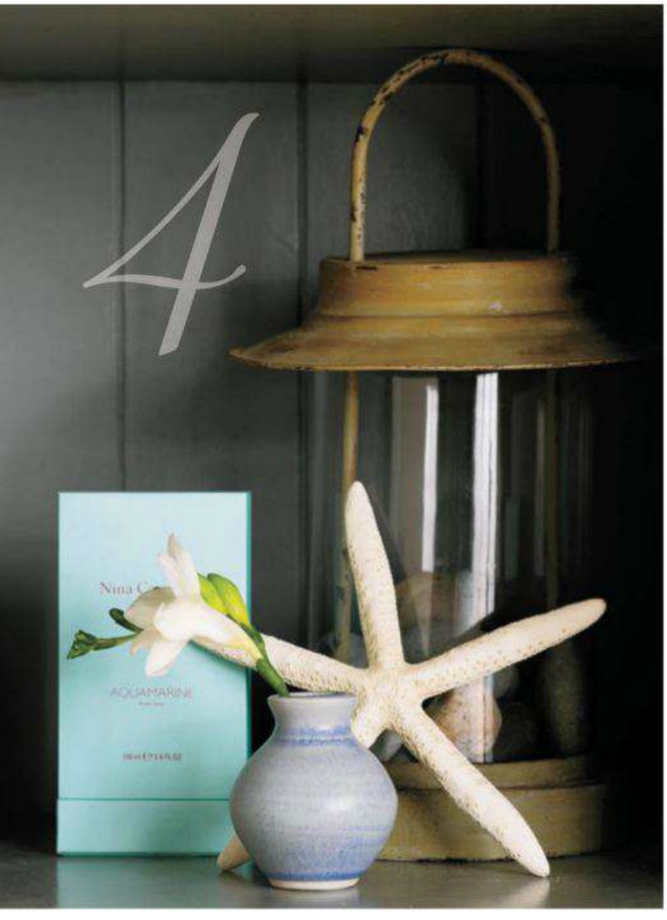
Unify seemingly disparate furniture colours (like the blush pink and sage green used here) with a neutral backdrop that has undertones of both colours. Earth-toned paints like these are versatile because of their many colour notes.

Japonica FD009 **WALL PAINT,** Rearview FD007 **HUTCH PAINT.**

No. 2
CODE OF CONTRAST

Painting wainscotting a hue subtly darker than the wall itself (two to three shades deeper) is just the right amount to make it a standout feature.

Dapple FD003 **WALL PAINT,** Piaffe FD004 **WAINSCOTTING PAINT.**



No. 3
SIMPLE SOPHISTICATION

Here, white takes centre stage in a range of styles. The formal club chairs with nailhead detailing, the casual linen sofa and the toss cushions with vintage-inspired prints are all unified by the warm off-white walls.

Worn Cedar FD028 **WALL PAINT.**

No. 4
BABY GOT BACK

The beadboard backing of this wooden hutch was given a dramatic dose of darkness in a colour that's somewhere between charcoal grey and black. The satin finish glistens in contrast to the patina of the rustic accessories on the shelf.

Satin Glass FD005 **HUTCH PAINT.**

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH

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No. 5
CHÂTEAU CHIC

Blending the shabby chic look of the French countryside with the formal yet whimsical Parisian Art Deco style, this bedroom embraces the kind of smoky pastels that achieve elegance every time.

Duck Egg FD043 **WALL PAINT,** Waterski FD015 **PANEL TRIM PAINT,** Janvier FD014 **BED FRAME PAINT.**

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH

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No. 6 REDEFINING RAINBOWS

The creamy putty colour of this mirror's frame just goes to show that a little colour – even one as muted as this – goes a long way in a sleek white room.

Pierced FD045 **MIRROR PAINT.**

No. 7 MONOCHROME

Create a seamless effect in a room by choosing only one colour for your palette. Pick a paint chip that you love, take it with you on your hunt for wallpaper, fabrics and accessories and bring everything together for a strong look that doesn't overwhelm the eyes.

Pitcher FD050 **HUTCH PAINT.**

No. 8 WHITE HOUSE

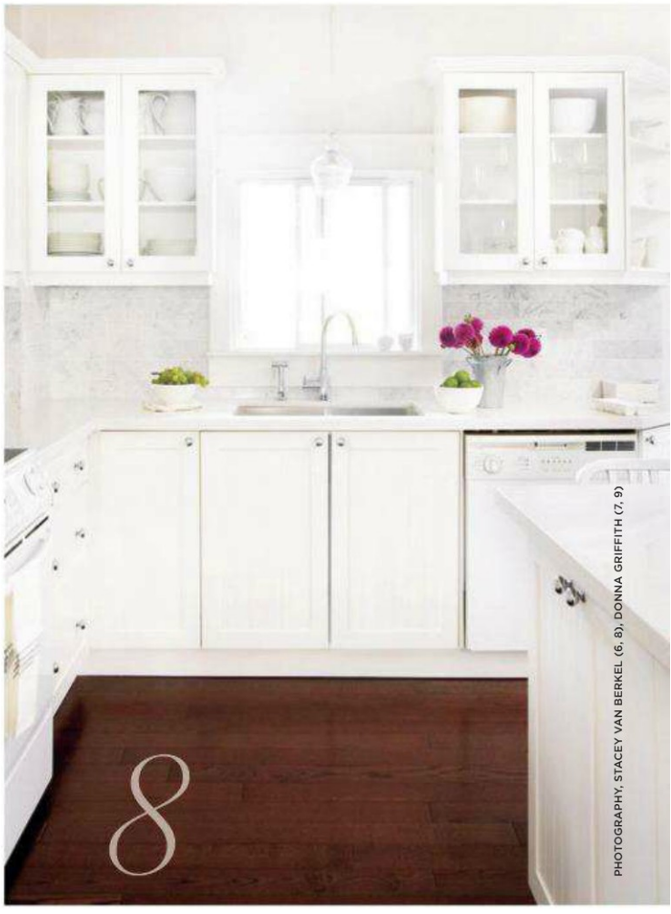
To make your all-white room crisp and modern yet still warm and inviting, layer shades of white for a look that is sleek and stylish but far from sterile.

Tennis Whites FD018 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Hotel Ware FD046 **WALL PAINT.**

No. 9 BEAUTIFUL BOTANY

A nature-inspired palette doesn't have to be as literal as using leaf-green and rose-red paint. Pick a neutral with natural undertones and you've painted the groundwork for botanical decor that can change with the seasons!

Piaffe FD004 **WAINSCOTTING PAINT.**



PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY VAN BERKEL (6, 8), DONNA GRIFFITH (7, 9)

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No. 10
STARING AT THE SEA

Layering soft, watery blues lends a fresh beach house vibe that can bring home memories of your favourite shore, from New Brunswick's Bay of Fundy (the inspiration for this dining room) to Vancouver's Kitsilano Beach. Bonus? The dash of sunlight peeking in from the back of the cabinet and the cloudy white trim.

Oldenburg FD001 **WALL PAINT,** Hotel Ware FD046 **TRIM PAINT,** Eddy Current FD030 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Citrine FD033 **CABINET BACKING PAINT,** Irish Sea FD036 **CHAIR PAINT.**

PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH

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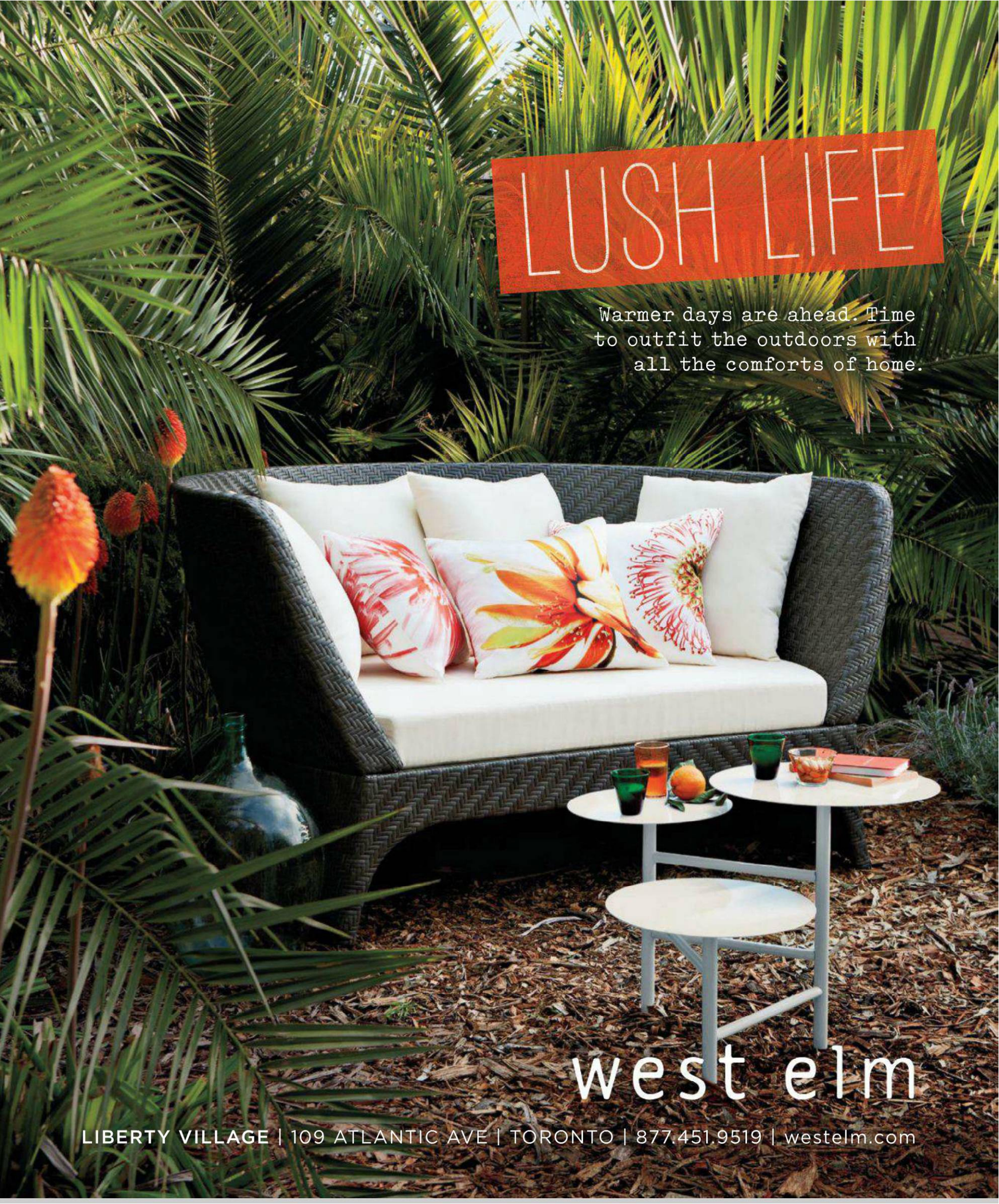
Before you can become any sort of contessa of cuisine, you need to have kitchen confidence, so let this fresh, inviting space be your style guide. After all, how can you master the art of cooking if your workshop is uninspiring?

TEXT SARA CATION | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH

eat your HEART out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EVERYTHING PLUS THE KITCHEN SINK

Since the art-glass mosaic backsplash is such a standout feature in this small space, the other design elements remain subtle: sleek panelled cabinetry, simple white accents (the pendant light, the vases, the dishware) and tiny hits of colour (the artwork, the dishtowel and the blue-painted cabinet interiors).

WALL & TRIM PAINT, Para Paints; Akurum **CABINETS,** Ramsjö **CABINET DOORS,** HanStone through IKEA quartz **COUNTERTOPS** in Aurora Snow, IKEA; **CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL,** IKEA Installation Services; Sierra **HARDWARE,** Alno; art-glass Random Moroccan mosaic **BACKSPLASH,** Edgewater Studio; **WINDOW,** Home Decor Window & Door Centre; Hector **PENDANT LIGHT,** Original BTC; Elio **FAUCET,** Dornbracht; undermount **SINK,** Franke Kindred Canada; travertine **FLOOR TILES,** Walker Zanger; **UNDERFLOOR HEATING,** Nuheat; **DISHWASHER, MICROWAVE,** Electrolux.

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CUTTING CORNERS (LITERALLY!)

To avoid having two small, awkward cabinet doors, the homeowner opted for a standard-sized one set on an angle to fit seamlessly with the rest.

French door **REFRIGERATOR,** Electrolux; *Land Over Lakes* **ARTWORK** by Danielle Hession, Art Interiors; **EGG CRATE,** West Elm.

THE CAT'S MEOW

This kitty's litter is located in the basement, but the homeowner wanted the panelled door to remain closed. The solution? A VIP door that lets kitty come and go as she pleases.

INTERIOR DOOR, Masonite.

HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT, TOO

Call it a kitchen staple, but having a chic cake stand on hand is the perfect way to display freshly baked goods – or at least give guests the impression that you like to bake.

PIE, Madeleines, Cherry Pie & Ice Cream.

SPICING THINGS UP

A sleek stainless steel range with touch-screen controls looks clean and uncluttered while setting the stage for scrumptious meals to come.

GAS RANGE, HOOD, Electrolux.

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Pepper art and photos among notes and reminders for an attractive message board.

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT?

This home's back door gets almost as much use as the front one – whether the homeowners are bringing in barbecued food for dinner or sending out cool drinks for happy hour. Plus, its glass panel diminishes the barrier between inside and out.

Finch on Peony 1 **ARTWORK** by Madeleine Lamont, Art Interiors; **MESSAGE BOARD,** Strecks; **EXTERIOR DOOR,** Home Decor Window & Door Centre.

FOR SOURCES AND BEFORE PHOTOS, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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TEXT LAURA DECARUFEL | PHOTOGRAPHY VIRGINIA MACDONALD

SISTER Act

Bursting with character and brimming with charm, Marlie Waks's Toronto condo reflects her bubbly personality to a T, thanks in part to her secret weapon: design editor Jessica Waks. Because, really, who knows you better than your own sister?

STYLE FOR LESS

THIS SECTIONAL WAS A ONE-OFF ITEM. THE RESULT? "WE GOT IT AT A GREAT PRICE POINT," SAYS JESSICA.

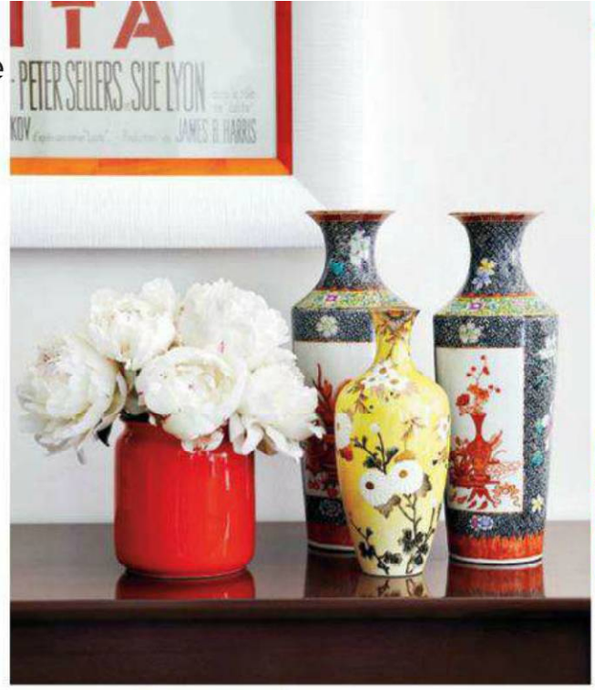
The living room showcases homeowner Marlie Waks's favourite save (the Chanel posters ordered from eBay) and top splurge (the chic and cheerful custom toss cushions). "The prints were a stylish way to warm up the room," says her sister, design editor Jessica Waks. Marlie agrees: "I love the colours. Jess tried to convince me to do an entire chair in one of them, but that was too much for me."

Chandelier **FLOOR LAMP,** Boo Boo & Lefty; **SECTIONAL,** Pauly Shore **RUG,** Elte; Phillip Gorrivan for Highland Court orange quilted **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics; geometric Belgravia **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** vinyl Gillian **OTTOMAN FABRIC,** Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom; Manuel Canovas floral Misia **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Primavera; custom **TOSS CUSHION SEWING,** Cooper Bros.; **OTTOMAN UPHOLSTERY,** Louis Interiors; **TRAY,** Z Gallerie; ceramic Key **BOX,** Jonathan Adler; Suffolk **SETTEE,** Crate and Barrel.

Marlie Waks has the kind of magnetic personality – bright smile, infectious laugh – that attracts people like butterflies to summer blooms. Equally charming? Marlie's design style, an eclectic mix of shabby chic and all-white enlivened with pops of colour. "I've always loved white, but I grew up in a house with three sisters, three dogs and four cats, so it was never practical," explains the Toronto leasing representative, who bought her first condo last year. "With my own home, I wanted to create a space that would really reflect who I am."

Marlie had a secret weapon when it came to translating her personality into paint and pillows: her sister Jessica Waks, an interior decorator and *Style at Home*'s design editor, who spearheaded the project. "I trust her wholeheartedly," says Marlie, who sent Jessica a selection of visual references, including pictures of Kate Winslet's cozy cottage in the movie *The Holiday*. But Marlie didn't need to tell her sister about her lifelong love of hot pink and flamingos, both of which are now generously represented in her condo. "Marlie and I know each other's quirks and individual styles so well," says Jessica. "Growing up, we were always saying 'Oh wow, I love that!' about similar things. I used that knowledge as a jumping-off point for the design."

Marlie planned to invest in a few major pieces for her new home, such as the fuchsia Second Life rug that Jessica describes as the "crowning jewel" of the office. Still, sticking to a budget remained a key concern. To keep costs under control while creating a "clean, serene, joyous" space, Jessica embraced a high/low mix. The sisters shopped together, saving on shelving at IKEA but splurging on bed linens from Au Lit Fine Linens. Jessica trolled the web looking for deals on artwork like the living room's vintage Chanel posters (an eBay score from a seller in Paris). The graphic wallpaper was a splurge, but Jessica →



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Pretty patterns on vases play up bolder hues like the juicy pops of Hermès orange; Jessica encouraged Marlie's friends to buy her books as housewarming gifts as a way to reinforce the colour scheme; sweet peonies and delicate china underscore Jessica's "feminine, light and airy" mandate for the space; the rich pink rug draws out the drama in the colourful wallpaper; Marlie (standing) and Jessica enjoy tea for two in the fashionable space. Middle Kingdom **VASE** (with peonies), **TABLE LAMP,** 1212 Decor; **SHELVES, STORAGE BOXES,** IKEA; **BOOKS,** Penguin; lacquered **TRAY,** West Elm; orange **GLASSES,** Anthropologie; **BIRDCAGE,** HomeSense; **TABLE RUNNER,** Pottery Barn; white Sweet **PEDESTALS,** Crate and Barrel; **DESSERTS,** Cake Opera Co.; Cole & Son Fornasetti Collection Peonie **WALLPAPER,** Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom; custom **CORKBOARD,** Pi Fine Art; Parsons **DESK,** West Elm; **CHAIR,** Indoors & Out; Second Life **RUG,** Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams Arthur **SIDE TABLE,** Eltc; **URN,** Decorum Decorative Finds.

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Jessica used rugs and artwork to divide the open-concept condo into unique zones. In the dining area, the clean minimalism of the modern Louis XVI-style chairs creates an impactful focal point, while a chandelier adds a girlie touch. "Marlie is so fun-loving, with lots of personality," says Jessica. "This space is definitely very her."

CHANDELIER, Elte; encaustic **ARTWORK,** David Brown; **DINING CHAIRS,** Sita Importing and Manufacturing; Duralee vinyl Ostrich **DINING CHAIR FABRIC,** Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics; *Lolita* **POSTER,** AllPosters.ca; **POSTER FRAMING,** Pi Fine Art; **FLOORING,** The Home Depot.

"It's all about mixing in designer touches and not being afraid to customize big box items with your own special accents."

JESSICA WAKS,
STYLE AT HOME DESIGN EDITOR

STYLE FOR LESS

AT ONLY $20, THE *LOLITA* POSTER SHOWCASING MARLIE'S LOVE OF FILM WAS A STEAL. "WE ADDED AN ORANGE INSET TO THE FRAME TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A MILLION BUCKS," SAYS JESSICA.

Take a look inside Jessica's Hollywood glam apartment. Visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/JESSICAWAKS.**

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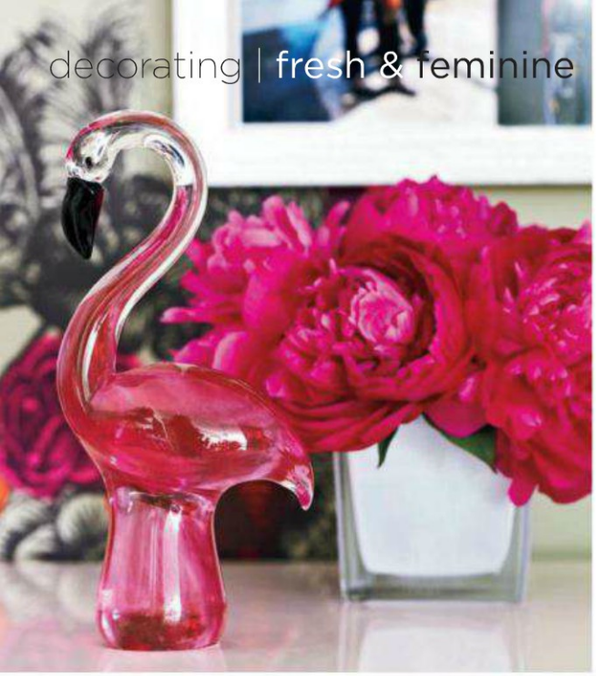

points out that covering only one wall in the gorgeous print helped to minimize costs. "It's all about mixing in designer touches and not being afraid to customize big box items with your own special accents," explains Jessica. "A settee from Crate and Barrel may be on everyone's list, but when topped with custom toss cushions, it becomes filled with individual personality."

On the personal style front, Jessica says that her taste tends to be a little more adventurous than Marlie's. One chair that she found in the garbage (and imagined lacquering and upholstering) didn't make Marlie's cut, while other pieces, including the living room's bright orange ottoman, sparked decor debate. "*That* took some convincing," Jessica remembers with a grin. "It's the only large piece of colourful furniture in the space, but the surrounding white items and white rug ground it." Marlie agrees: "Now the ottoman is one of my favourite pieces."

Jessica's tip for designing on a budget? It pays to be yourself. "Trust your instincts. It's important to remember that there's a difference between taking a chance and doing something that doesn't sit right with you. Your house is your palace! You want to feel like yourself when you're at home." And it's obvious that Marlie feels just that way in her lively condo. And hey, it doesn't hurt to have a sister like Jessica who knows you inside and out – flamingos and all.

ABOVE Flamingos are a Marlie signature, showing up in accessories like this glass figurine given to her by a friend. "They're nostalgic for me because of our childhood family vacations to Florida," she explains.

BELOW Marlie has a special fondness for this nightstand arrangement: "It's my style and Jessica's style mixed together, with the orange and white, the layering and the added touch of a cute teacup on top."

BOOKS, Penguin; **TEACUP & SAUCER,** Of Things Past; **GLASS,** Anthropologie.

RIGHT Fresh and light, the bedroom gives the overall impression of being colourful, but all the big pieces are neutral. As Jessica says, "There's nothing better than a white bedroom. It gives you that feeling of waking up in a cloud." The bedroom is Marlie's favourite space. "All the elements come together here: It's white and clean, with pops of personality – and there's lots of closet space!" she says.

Ava **NIGHTSTAND,** Worlds Away; crystal **TABLE LAMP,** 1212 Decor; fashion **PRINTS,** Condé Nast Store; tufted **HEADBOARD,** The Home Depot; **BEDDING,** printed **TOSS CUSHIONS, THROW,** Au Lit Fine Linens.

STYLE FOR LESS

JESSICA FOUND THE ELEGANT TUFTED HEADBOARD AT THE HOME DEPOT. "IT LOOKS SO EXPENSIVE! THE GUYS WHO INSTALLED IT COULDN'T BELIEVE IT."

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TEXT JENNIFER HUGHES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH | **STYLING** MICHAEL PENNEY

country charmer

A lot of hard work over countless weekends and holidays reveals a fresh face for the farmhouse that Cheryl and Richard Little call their own.

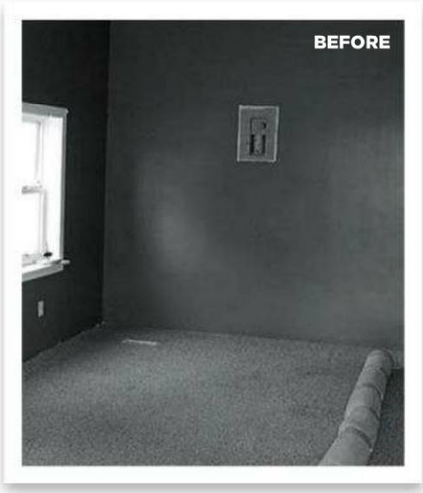
Decorator Michael Penney chose the drapery fabric for its soft robin's egg blue background, and the fact that its leaf-and-branch floral motif wasn't overly sweet and feminine. Block-printed toss cushions lend the room a global vibe that helps it feel modern and updated.

DESIGN, Penney & Company, michaelpenneystyle.com; **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC, DRAPERY FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; **SEWING,** Tonic Living.

"This is a simple country home, so we tried to avoid anything overly posh and kept things casual and relaxed." MICHAEL PENNEY, DECORATOR

Michael loves the idea of using a dresser in the dining room for all the storage it provides. He kept the display on top loose and layered rather than formal and symmetrical to create a more casual feeling, appropriate to the farmhouse.

Old White 4 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Farrow & Ball; **DINING CHAIRS**, Penney & Company.



Nearly five years, including countless weekends and vacation days, is what it took to transform this modest circa-1860 farmhouse in Prince Edward County, Ont., into the charming home it is today. When Cheryl and Richard Little bought the house as a weekend retreat, its character was almost completely buried beneath layer upon layer of carpet, vinyl, linoleum, plywood, plaster and drywall. "I was skeptical when we first looked at it, but Richard saw it as a fun project," Cheryl recalls with a laugh.

ABOVE Homeowners Richard and Cheryl Little pose with Darcy, a soft-coated wheaten terrier. Rustic linen instantly updated this armchair, originally covered in a fussy and dated floral fabric.

CHAIR REUPHOLSTERING, Soft Options Upholstery; **NEWEL POST,** Balleycanoe & Co.

ABOVE, LEFT A painting Cheryl bought at an auction in Cobourg, Ont., hangs over an antique pine chest in the living room. The airy glass lamp gives this vignette a bit of a modern edge.

TABLE LAMP, Pottery Barn.

LEFT Tongue-and-groove wainscotting was installed by Richard up the staircase and through the upper hall. Although it wasn't an original architectural feature, it was uncovered in places elsewhere in the house, so the Littles felt it would be an appropriate addition. Original pine plank floors were revealed and refinished in a rich brown stain.

Cloud White OC-130 **TRIM PAINT** (throughout), Benjamin Moore.

Indeed, when it came to the messy bits, Richard relished doing most of it himself. "He loves doing all that stuff," says Cheryl. He stripped back the layers to uncover the original pine plank floors throughout the house and eventually refinished them to their current rich, dark stain. Popcorn ceilings came down to reveal tongue-and-groove pine, a few 1940s-era newspapers and the original plaster and lath. "It was a matter of taking the house back to basics," says Cheryl, who owns a home and garden products importing business with her husband.

With most of Richard's hard work finished, the fun part then began for Cheryl. To pull the three-bedroom, 1,500-square-foot house together, she called upon decorator Michael Penney to help choose paint colours, fabrics and furnishings. The pair worked together to create an updated take on the country aesthetic, keeping things simple and pretty while avoiding an overly clichéd look.

Happily, Michael's keen eye for older pieces that need just a lick of paint or a slipcover to make them sing found plenty of furniture sitting in the Littles' Toronto basement. Many items were repurposed for the farmhouse, including a teal velvet sofa that was the first large piece of furniture the couple bought after they were married. "Cheryl had written it off as hopelessly dated," recalls Michael, "but I assured her it was actually very on-trend right now. It's a good-quality piece, and the construction is really solid." Quite a few items throughout the house have a similar provenance, which enabled everything to come together on budget.

The farmhouse is now a cozy and inviting spot to spend time relaxing with friends, hosting family gatherings and celebrating special holidays. And thankfully, the weekends are now free of demolition and hard labour.

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MOBILE **ENABLED**

Richard built the fireplace mantel and bookshelves himself and installed crown moulding throughout the house. The sofa and seagrass rug were moved as is from the couple's Toronto home to the farm. The coffee table's base has an oil-rubbed bronze finish to simulate age, and a pair of armchairs were slipcovered in black and white ticking.

Zero-clearance propane **FIREPLACE,** Friendly Fires; slate **FIREPLACE SURROUND,** Antica Tile & Stone; **MIRROR, BASKETS,** HomeSense; **URNS,** Pottery Barn; ceramic **VASES, TOSS CUSHIONS, TRAY,** West Elm.

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RIGHT Richard installed the white Shaker-style IKEA kitchen himself. The basic wooden work table was treated to a new butcher-block top to create a functional island for cooking prep and eating. Handmade square tiles laid in a brick pattern on the backsplash were suggested by Michael as a more interesting alternative to the ubiquitous rectangular subway tiles. The beige grout is more practical in a kitchen setting.

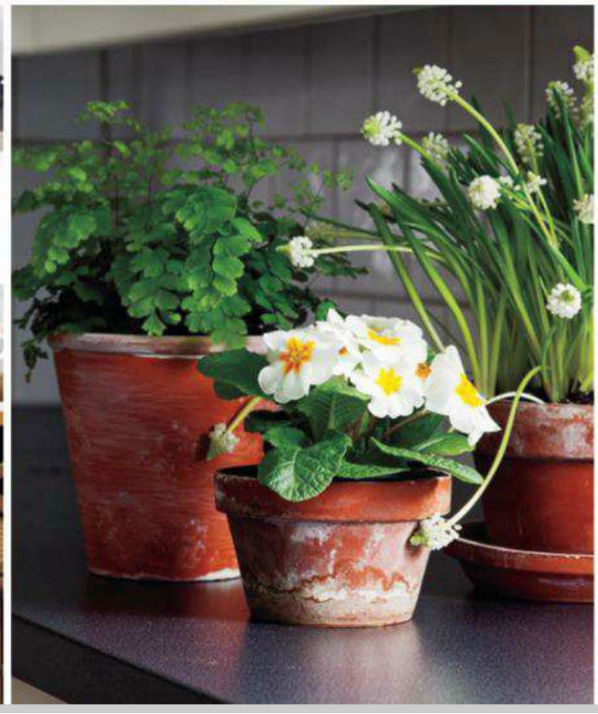
CABINETRY, COUNTERTOPS, IKEA; **BAR STOOLS,** Restoration Hardware; **BACKSPLASH TILE,** Antica Tile & Stone; Pale Powder 204 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball.

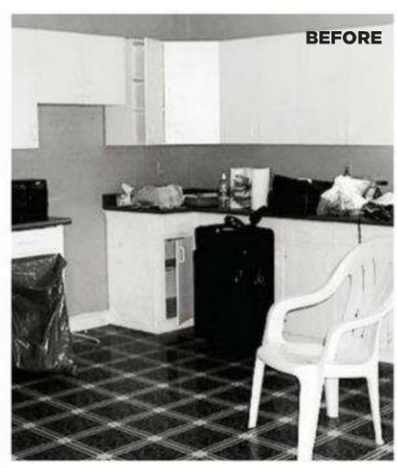
BELOW, LEFT
A collection of soft baskets grouped sparingly atop the kitchen cabinets is an updated take on the country tradition. The window's Roman blind offers a touch of softness without the formality.

BASKETS, Penney & Company.

BELOW, RIGHT
Weathered pots drive the casual-country vibe home.

"It was a matter of taking the house back to basics." CHERYL LITTLE, HOMEOWNER





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4 tsp baking powder
1 tsp ground cinnamon
½ tsp **each**, ground nutmeg and salt
2 eggs
¼ cup canola oil
¾ cup chopped, frozen cranberries (do not thaw)
¾ cup unpeeled, diced McIntosh apples (¼" cubes)

In medium bowl, combine cereal and milk. Let stand for 2 minutes or until cereal softens. Meanwhile, in large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Set aside.

Beat eggs and oil into cereal mixture. Add to dry ingredients, stirring only until just combined. Fold in cranberries and apple. Portion batter evenly into 12 (2 ½") non-stick muffin pan cups, lightly coated with cooking spray.

Bake at 400°F for 20 minutes or until tops spring back when lightly touched. Yields 12 muffins, each a source of fibre.

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"We wanted a fresh take on the country look for the home: a traditional foundation with lots of eclectic pieces to keep it from looking kitschy."

MICHAEL PENNEY, DECORATOR

ABOVE Michael suggested cropped drapery in the master bedroom for a less formal, more cottagey effect. The hip batik-style pattern of the fabric, also used on the bed's toss cushions, gives the drapery a fresh look and avoids a granny-ish feel.

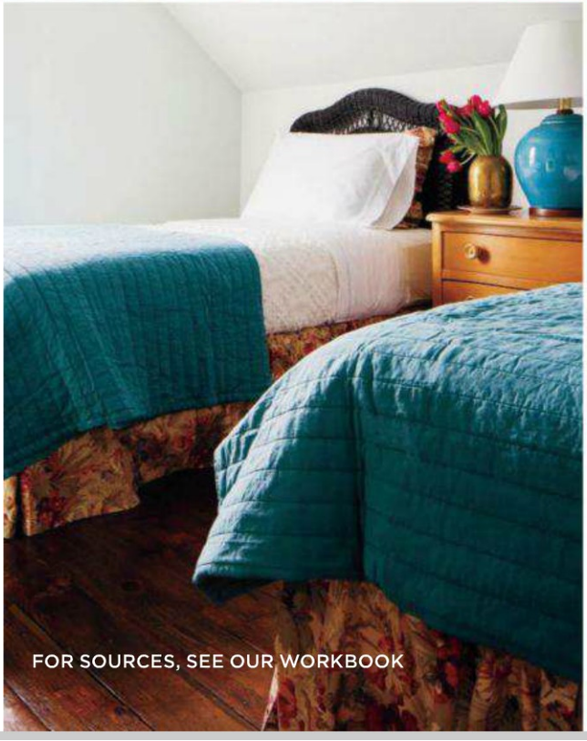
Skylight 205 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **NIGHTSTANDS,** Penney & Company; **TOSS CUSHIONS, DRAPERY,** Tonic Living; large square **TOSS CUSHIONS,** West Elm; **CHAIR,** Waddington's.

RIGHT A pair of white wicker headboards from a vintage shop were treated to a coat of black spray paint to take them from shabby chic to sophisticated country.

Wicker **HEADBOARDS,** Funk & Gruven A-Z; **TABLE LAMP,** floral **SHAMS & BEDSKIRTS,** HomeSense; teal **COVERLETS,** West Elm.

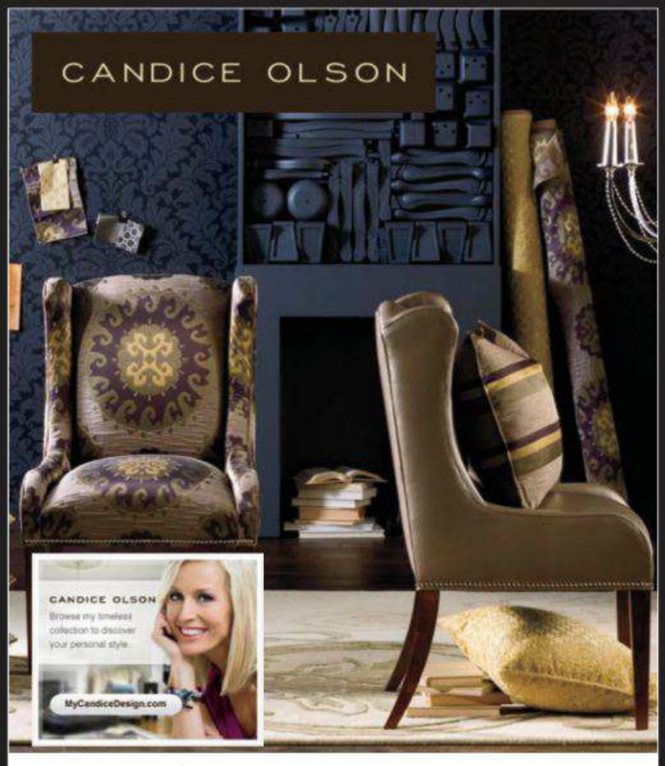
FAR RIGHT A dark, shapely table lamp pops against the pale blue wall.

TABLE LAMP, Pottery Barn; vintage **PITCHER,** Penney & Company.



FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

SHOPPING IN STYLE



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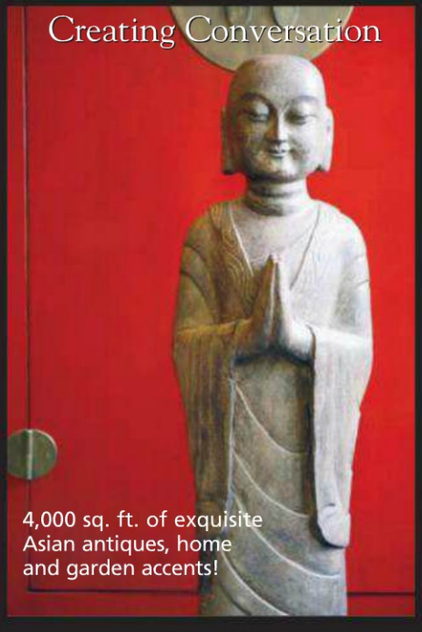

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risky BUSINESS

For designer and stylist Nicola Marc, decorating means creating a home with lots of happy surprises.

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE

PHOTOGRAPHY MONIC RICHARD

Wander into this 900-square-foot 1920s Montreal apartment and you'll immediately feel a little warmer, a bit more carefree and a lot more playful than you did before. Maybe it's the aubergine-and-mustard palette. Or the way dark accents pop on light walls. Maybe it's the striking combination of geometrics, stripes and paisleys. Or the displays of unique artwork here and there. Whatever it is, the space epitomizes designer and stylist Nicola Marc's style: plenty of personalized details that culminate in a delightfully coherent aesthetic.

Nicola recently joined forces with Montreal-based designer and stylist Beth Gold to form Marc Gold Interiors,

Since the apartment opens directly onto the living area, designer Nicola Marc created a stylish vignette to give the space a sense of welcome.

DESIGN, Marc Gold Interiors, marcgoldinteriors.com; Manor House Gray 265 **FLOOR PAINT** (throughout), The Ranelagh Papers BP 1806 **WALLPAPER,** Farrow & Ball; lucite **CONSOLE,** Revive Decor; **VASE, TABLE LAMPS, BOXES,** Celadon Collection; **FLOWERS,** Fauchois Fleurs; **MIRROR,** HomeSense.

EXPOSURE MARY ELLEN MARK
VANITY FAIR PORTRAITS
ANNIE LEIBOVITZ A Photographer's Life 1990–2005
SEAN ELLIS KUBRICK THE DOG

An L-shaped sofa with its back to the entrance was used to demarcate the open-concept living area.

Martha Stewart Living Pure White MSL253 **WALL & TRIM PAINT,** The Home Depot; **SOFA,** metal **CABINET,** IKEA; **ARTWORK, TABLE LAMP,** Celadon Collection; **RUG,** Vie de Campagne; **CHAIR,** Maison Corbeil; lucite **COFFEE TABLE,** Revive Decor; Vintage Blossom **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC** in Citrine, Robert Allen; **TOSS CUSHION SEWING** (throughout), Creation Design Confection; **BOOKS,** Chapters, Indigo.

a union that marries equal talents. "This apartment was a way of testing myself and really letting go, before launching into this great adventure with Beth," she says. "People have reacted to my design choices in different ways, but for me, that's the exciting part because, let's face it, if you don't get a reaction, you're probably not taking enough chances."

In a risky manoeuvre, Nicola chose to outfit this apartment, with its traditional bones, in a modern sweep of furnishings, colourful accessories and metallic finishes. As her own personal stamp, she took care to have fun with the details. Take the drapery in the living room, for example. When it's pulled back, it reveals a cheery yellow lining. "It's little surprises just like this that make you smile," says Nicola. Her detail-oriented approach doesn't stop there. Rather than dismiss closets as places to conceal belongings, Nicola celebrates the fact that they're used so often by painting their interiors in appealing hues – in this case, teal. "Suddenly your closet has a rich backdrop for your garments and shoes," says Nicola. "In fact, any →

TOP LEFT To get a custom look on a budget in the kitchen, high-gloss white cabinetry was installed all the way to the ceiling and appliances were fit flush.

CABINETRY, IKEA; granite **COUNTERTOPS,** Summum Granit; **APPLIANCES,** LG.

TOP RIGHT In the dining area, a round table was a great way to deal with the small space. Above it hangs a clever art display that Nicola fashioned by framing photographs of her own shoes.

DINING TABLE, FRAMES, IKEA; **DINING CHAIRS,** Mtlmodern; **TRAY,** HomeSense; **VASE, JAR,** Celadon Collection.

LEFT Nicola created attractive vignettes on the kitchen's open shelves with useful items like these pretty gold teaspoons.

CANISTER, CREAMER, Arthur Quentin; gold-detailed **GLASS, TEASPOONS,** Beige.

FAR LEFT For visual impact, the kitchen's feature wall was covered in marble tiles. The wooden island looks like a piece of furniture that ties into the living room.

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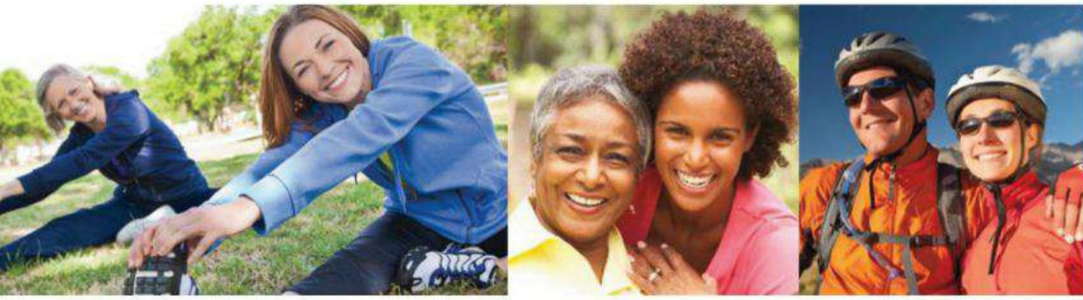

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"If you don't get a reaction, you're probably not taking enough chances." NICOLA MARC, DESIGNER

Eschewing upper cabinetry on the feature wall lends the kitchen a light, open feel. Floating black shelves are kept tidy with pretty displays. Nicola used different fabrics for the kitchen and living room drapery to separate the spaces. The fabrics work well together – in part because of their playful linings.

Boteh **DRAPERY** in Brindle with Country Plains **LINING** in Zest, Cats Cradle **DRAPERY** in Sunshine with Living Simply **LINING** in Charcoal, Robert Allen; Carrara marble **BACKSPLASH, SINK, FAUCET,** The Home Depot; **HOOD,** black **SHELVES,** IKEA; **BAR STOOLS,** HomeSense; linen **RUNNER,** Qui Dort Dinc; **BOWLS, GLASSES, PITCHER, CLOCHE,** glass **BOTTLES, SPOONS, PLATES, NAPKINS, COFFEE CUPS & SAUCERS,** Arthur Quentin; **TOASTER, BUTTER DISH,** Les Touilleurs.

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place that gets overlooked – shelves, cupboards, drawers – will come to life with a coat of paint or wallpaper."

Ceilings are another surface that tends to be ignored, says Nicola. One of her trade secrets is to paint them a different colour than the walls. In the master bedroom, for instance, she adorned the ceiling in a pale lilac – a gentle allusion to the aubergine elsewhere. "It's about including the entire space in the colour scheme," she says. "And why should the ceilings be left out?"

Bold elements have a place in her approach as well. "Keep boldness to areas that are easy to change if you grow tired of them," says Nicola. She recommends adding a wallpaper with a metallic or large-scale pattern to a single wall or creating two-sided toss cushions with a colourful side and a muted side. Nicola also likes to jazz up lampshades: "Recover them with remnant fabrics or use a piece of ribbon as trim," she says. "It's easy and not a huge commitment."

Another unique spark you'll find in this apartment? One-of-a-kind artwork. The framed grouping in the dining area is actually photographs →

ABOVE, LEFT The guest room/office has a relaxed, lived-in look, thanks to the sculptural desk and artwork leaned casually against the wall. The yellow chair is "a ray of sunshine," says Nicola.

WOCA oil **FLOOR FINISH,** WoodCare USA; Martha Stewart Living Cobblestone MSL241 **WALL PAINT,** The Home Depot; **DESKTOP,** IKEA; **CHAIR,** Mtlmodern; Vintage Plumes **DRAPERY FABRIC** in Birch, Robert Allen; **FILING BOX, VASE,** HomeSense; **ARTWORK,** Celadon Collection; **FLOWERS,** Fauchois Fleurs.

LEFT The sofa bed is neutral, but the toss cushions provide hits of pattern and colour. The pinboards are painted a bluish grey to play to the other bold accents in the guest room/office.

SOFA BED, IKEA; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** HomeSense; Martha Stewart Living Shale MSL276 **PINBOARD PAINT,** The Home Depot.

FAR LEFT "Pink is bold enough to make a statement but gentle enough to match with almost any colour," says Nicola.

+

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In the master bedroom, metallic wallpaper creates a focal point, while the custom headboard covered in grey velvet grounds the lighter colours. A sleek white bedside table is topped with a desk lamp that Nicola painted black.

The Bamboo Papers BP 2105 **WALLPAPER,** Farrow & Ball; Danby Square **HEADBOARD FABRIC** in Sterling, Vintage Blossom **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC** in Dove, Inside Out **BOLSTER FABRIC** in Topaz, Robert Allen; **HEADBOARD CONSTRUCTION,** Le Divan Dodu; **BEDSIDE TABLE, DESK LAMP,** IKEA; **BED LINENS,** Bleu Nuit; **QUILT,** Beige.

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of Nicola's own shoes. "Not only do the photographs add character to the space, but a single theme also unites the arrangement, creating a coherent display," says Nicola.

Nicola played with gradations of colour as well, showcasing her thoughtful and integrated design sense. For instance, every chair at the dining table is a slightly different shade, and the wood used for furnishings, flooring and millwork ranges from light to dark. "The different tones work well together, providing a touch of warmth," she says. "As long as elements speak to one another, there's no need to be rigid."

It's this attention to detail – a layered approach that embodies Nicola's signature style – that makes this space a happy one to step into. And shouldn't that always be the goal of a well-designed home?

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

TOP LEFT The armchair in the corner of the master bedroom is an antique, reupholstered in white linen. "You need a chair in the bedroom," says Nicola. "It's not only a great dumping ground, but it also beckons you to sit down and relax."

WOCA oil **FLOOR FINISH,** WoodCare USA; Martha Stewart Living Cumulus Cloud MSL260 **WALL PAINT,** The Home Depot; Crystal Springs **DRAPERY FABRIC** in Sterling, Robert Allen.

TOP RIGHT A sleek white vanity replaced a tired old pink one. Its simple lines allude to the style of the home and fit nicely in this very small space.

Martha Stewart Living Anvil MSL277 **WALL PAINT, MIRROR,** The Home Depot; **SINK, VANITY,** IKEA; **WALL SCONCES,** Restoration Hardware; **VASE, SOAP DISH,** HomeSense; **BOX,** Celadon Collection.

LEFT The dresser, formerly dark wood, was painted a cool grey colour and fitted with modern white handles.

Martha Stewart Living Shale MSL276 **DRESSER PAINT,** The Home Depot; white **HANDLES,** IKEA; **TABLE LAMP, BOX, ARTWORK,** Celadon Collection.

FAR LEFT Sliding closet doors were swapped for French doors outfitted with mirrors to provide light and sparkle.

CLOSET DOORS, The Home Depot; **DOORKNOBS,** Anthropologie.

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Photo credit: Stacey Haines

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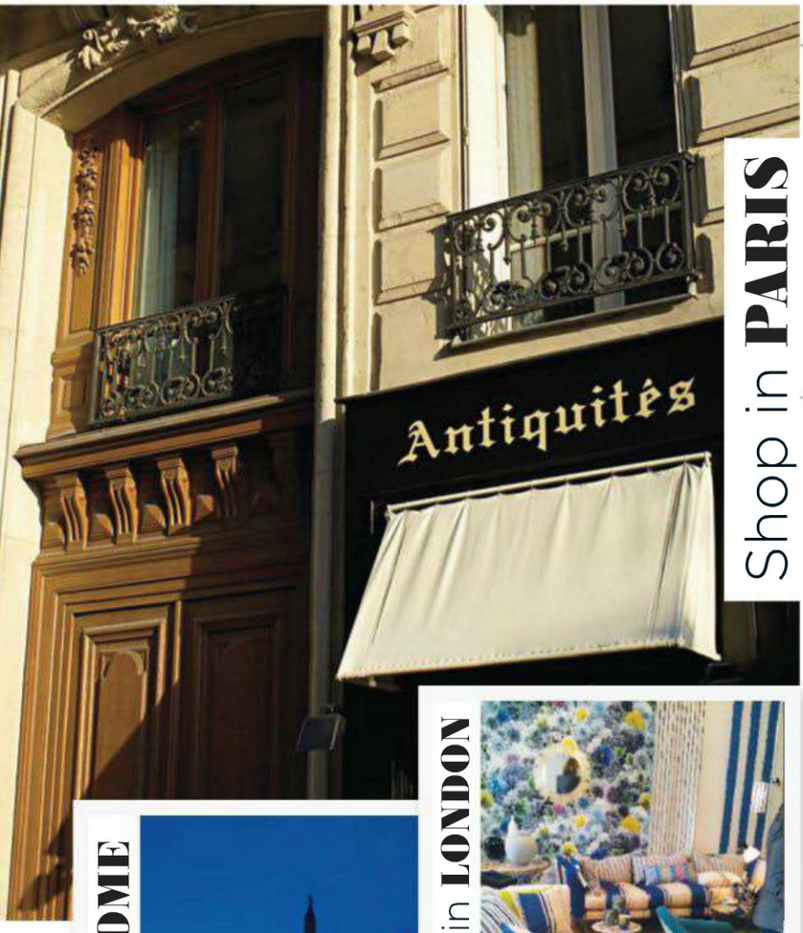

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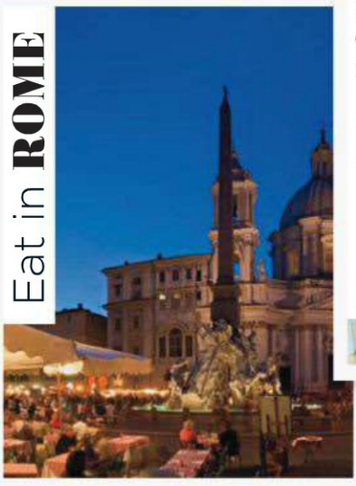

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eat·shop DECORATE styleathome

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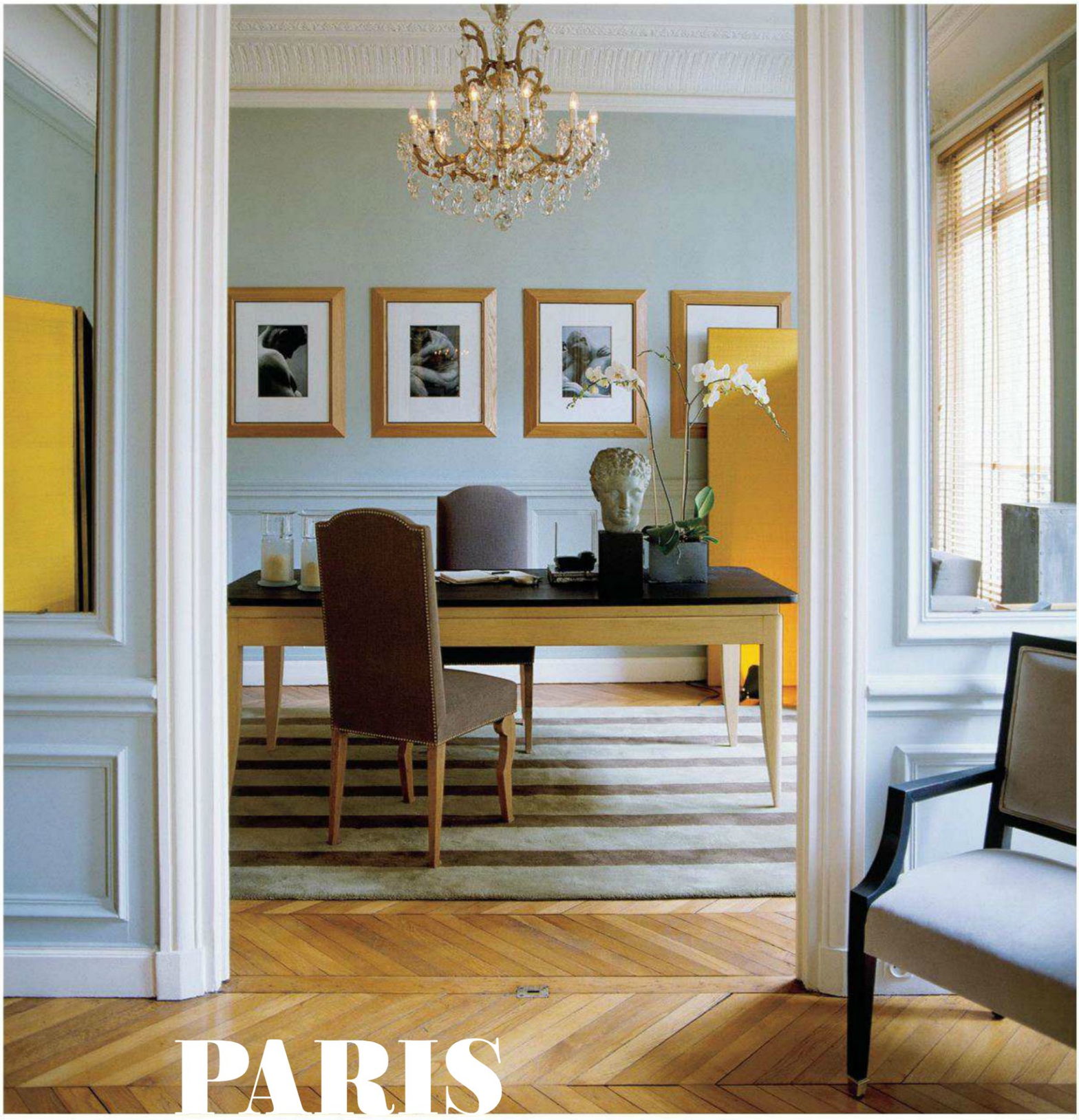

PARIS MAKES PERFECT

Whether you're a designer, decorator or simply love great style, Paris is a hot spot for decoristas. Whatever you prefer, cafés or cathedrals, the City of Lights inspires a look that you'll want to bring home.

PHOTOGRAPHY, KEN HAYDEN, FLORE PALIX/OREDIA

Whenever we go abroad, we're inspired by arts and culture, architecture and, of course, the shops in an exciting destination. With its rich history, languid old-world elegance and masterpieces of artwork, Paris embodies a style that's full of *joie de vivre*. Paris encourages you to return home and play some Édith Piaf, hang a chandelier in front of your floor-to-ceiling mirror and indulge in some *chocolat*. **To get the inside scoop, *Style at Home* talked to the trusted travel and service experts at American Express about what to experience in Paris and how to travel with ease.**

3 colours inspired by Paris

Flowing Breeze
90GG 64/088,
CIL Paints.

Valspar Gravity
4005-1B,
Lowe's.

Loft Space
P5248-44D,
Para Paints.

Count on American Express to give you the best tips to navigate the city. Gerry Parent, Director of Membership Travel Services, Amex Canada, answers your questions.

What pastries should I order with my morning café au lait?

You can never go wrong with a croissant – especially a *croissant au beurre* or *pain au chocolat*.

Where can I find the best deals?

Les Puces are flea markets where one can purchase tourist souvenirs, new and vintage clothing, foodstuffs, books and antiques.

What hours are stores open (in general)?

Most stores are open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Some outdoor markets remain open until 9 or 10 p.m. Many food shops open at 8 a.m., even on Sundays. On holidays, most businesses in Paris close, while bakeries (*boulangeries*) are only open in the morning.

next stop London!

Look for our London contest pages in the July issue of *Style at Home*, on sale June 4, 2012.

5 best finds in Paris

- Dress as effortlessly as a Parisian woman with a simple striped T-shirt from **PETIT BATEAU.**
- Find a secret stash of decorative items at **MERCI PARIS,** a one-stop loft-style shop selling everything from make-your-own perfumes to pencil sharpeners to coffee.
- Forget lavender – the evocative scent of France is fig; find a luxurious bar of fig soap to bring home to family and friends at **L'OCCITANE.**
- Relive your memories when you return home with a mini **EIFFEL TOWER** sculpture.
- Infuse all your new French-inspired home-cooked meals with a little *je ne sais quoi* by including a pinch of **FLEUR DE SEL.**

3 ways Amex helps you travel with ease

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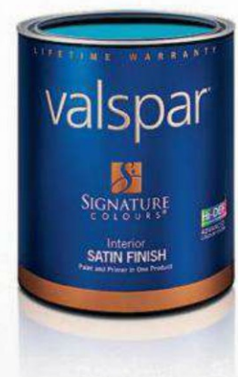

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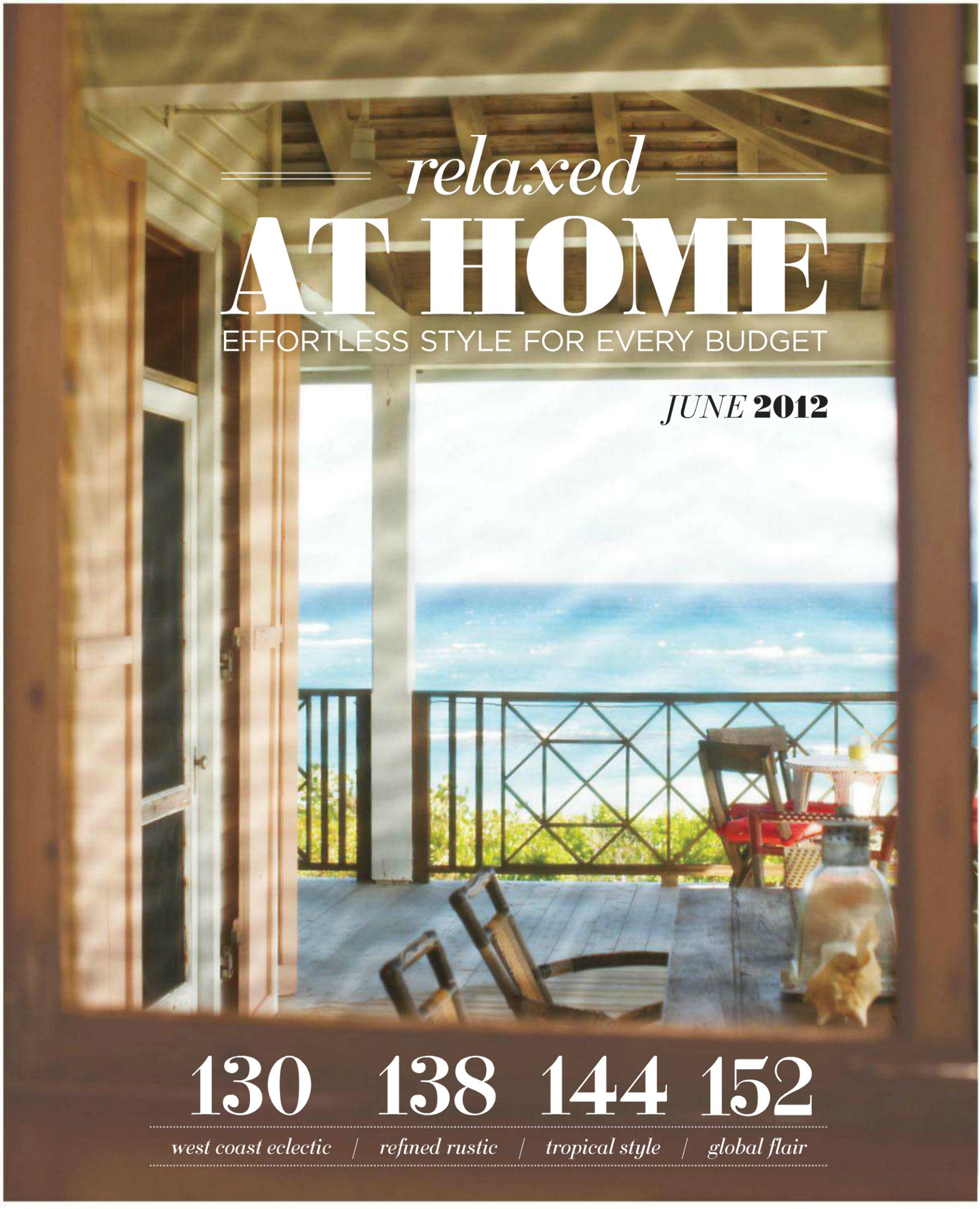


relaxed AT HOME

EFFORTLESS STYLE FOR EVERY BUDGET

JUNE **2012**

130 *west coast eclectic*

138 *refined rustic*

144 *tropical style*

152 *global flair*

PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY VAN BERKEL

Homeowner Shereen de Rousseau found the settee on Craigslist, while designer Nancy Riesco found the bold oversized print (that camouflages Leo the dog) to update it with – that's just the way this relationship works. The round mirror from Nancy's shop was painted orange – Shereen's choice accent colour.

DESIGN, Riesco & Lapres Interior Design, riescolapres.com.

"I love accessories in other people's homes and I love them in fashion, but I just had this fear of tchotchkes and clutter," says Shereen. She has learned that a little goes a long way in personalizing a space.

Orange **BOX,** Provide Home.

Only a special kind of friend would dare tell you that your home is, well, bland. But lucky for this Vancouver homeowner, her daring, devoted friend also happens to be a fantastic designer.

TEXT KATHLEEN DORE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JANIS NICOLAY

Without sounding too much like *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*, it's probably safe to say women's friendships are different than men's. From getting ready for high school dances together ("Does this look okay?") to shopping for a sofa for your first place, women seek their friends' advice on all sorts of things.

That's how it was when designer Nancy Riesco of Riesco & Lapres Interior Design helped jewellery designer Shereen de Rousseau decorate her 1920s Vancouver home. The two moms met through their children, and it was a case of like attracts like. "We hit it off," says Nancy. "Shereen just exudes fun and intelligence and creativity." But despite similar aesthetic tastes, Nancy was surprised when she first saw the house Shereen shared with her husband, Wilf, and son, Silas. "She has such a big, interesting personality and her home was lovely in terms of the basics...but she had very little art, no tchotchkes, no bits from travels. I kept saying to her, 'You can't tell who lives here; it doesn't look like you, Wilf or Silas.'" →

OPPOSITE (INSET) Shereen and her son, Silas, 14, use the chalkboard on the fridge to leave notes and reminders, keeping the surface clear of messy papers and magnets.

OPPOSITE In the kitchen's breakfast nook, rustic textures in the weathered table, woven placemats and distressed vase play off smooth, clean ones, like the armchairs and dishes.

BELOW An ornate rug adds colour to an otherwise muted space. From the Mid-Century Modern armchairs to the contemporary chandelier to the farmhouse dining table, this mix of styles works because it's simple.

Zettel'z **CHANDELIER,** Inform Interiors; **DINING TABLE,** Canada West Antique Co.; **RUG,** Peter Tolliday Oriental Carpets.

ABOVE & TOP Before, the kitchen walls were painted charcoal grey. It was nice, says Nancy, but the room felt cold. Giving the walls a coat of Shereen's favourite blue linked it to the rest of the house and instantly changed the mood to happy and bright, Nancy adds.

"I bought her the beautiful robin's egg blue vase and she loved it," says Nancy. "Shereen never has anything on her tables, so it was very exciting!" The Mao figurine is another testament to Shereen's eclectic taste.

Nelson **PENDANT LIGHT,** Design Within Reach; **MIRROR,** The Cross Decor & Design; **TABLECLOTH,** Bacci's.

"Shereen's home was lovely in terms of the basics… but she had **VERY LITTLE ART, NO TCHOTCHKES, NO BITS FROM TRAVELS.** I kept saying to her, 'You can't tell who lives here.'"

NANCY RIESCO, DESIGNER

"I found some art that she loved, and she found some art she loved," says Nancy of the process of infusing Shereen's home with personal objects. When Nancy saw the striking clown piece by her friend, artist Kitty Blandy, she knew Shereen would love it, and she was right! They've affectionately dubbed it "the creepy clown." Other hits of orange (in the oval mirror and small box) balance the look of the living room.

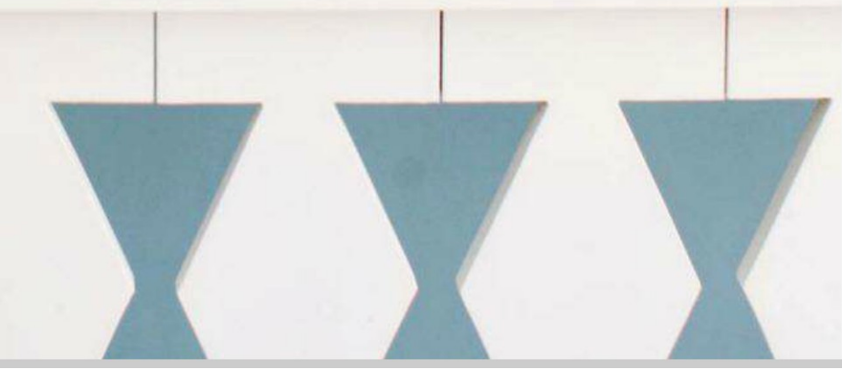
COFFEE TABLE, Inform Interiors; **CREDENZA, DRAPERY,** Riesco & Lapres Interior Design; **RUG, POUFFE,** Salari Fine Carpet Collections; **ARTWORK,** Kitty Blandy.

"I have this fear of my house looking like I take it too seriously.

THIS IS MY HOUSE; THIS IS THE STUFF I LIKE.

I like a sense of humour, a house decorated with fun, quirky little things."

SHEREEN DE ROUSSEAU, HOMEOWNER



The truth was, Shereen was utterly clutter-phobic. "What Nancy called accessories, I called clutter," she says, admitting she craved clean, even sparse, rooms. She eventually realized that sparse can translate as void of personality.

So they started slowly. First, Shereen asked Nancy to design built-ins for the dining room and home office. It went well, so over the next few years, the two refreshed the place in a collaborative, organic way. "I was always picking her brain," says Shereen. "What do you think of this? What if I do that?" And Nancy, in the way you want your friend but not your significant other to answer, was always honest. When the headboard Shereen ordered online arrived, "She wasn't allowed to keep it!" says Nancy with a laugh. "We're brutally honest with each other because we don't take things personally. We respect each other's tastes."

One of the most striking things about the house now is its bright palette, but it wasn't always so. "I was a white-walls girl before I met Nancy," says Shereen. "But as Shereen hung out with me more and more," says Nancy, "she saw all the colour in my house and I sort of trained her eye to see it in magazines and different places, and one day she said, 'Okay, I'm ready for some colour.'"

The palette still has lots of white, but Shereen's favourite blue is used in variations throughout: a gorgeous duck's egg shade on the kitchen walls, a quirky Mao Zedong figurine in the dining room, artwork in the living room and full-on whole-wall "Birks box blue," as Nancy describes it because she likes the Canadian reference, in the master bedroom. The blues lift white beyond boring and are electrified by hits of orange and red. Silk drapery in gunmetal grey and black accents add *gravitas* to the living room, but nothing so serious that a framed Sex Pistols poster and "creepy clown" painting, as the women call it, can't loosen up.

The style of furniture, too, is a loose blend of contemporary and character pieces, just the way both friends like it. Nancy helped Shereen find the gorgeous rustic Canadiana table for the kitchen and iconic Zettel'z chandelier, Shereen added the modern armchairs, and they both love the look of an antique rug to anchor the mix. "It sums up my look," says Shereen of the breakfast area.

Nancy also showed Shereen how texture enlivens a mostly black and white scheme without cluttering it – as with the chunky living room rug and pouffe. They even slowly added – gasp! – accessories. "She really did hold my hand and say, 'What about if we put a little thing here?'" says Shereen. "I'd live with that for a bit, then we'd venture a throw. Toss cushions were my worst nightmare. But Nancy would say to me, 'We still have the receipt. Try it.' Now my house is full of plush toss cushions."

And you know what? She loves the new decor – and even something more intangible. "I like that it reflects our family. When you walk into the house, it says that we're not cookie-cutter people. We like art. We like books," says Shereen. "And I like that it's light and airy. We live in such a grey, gloomy city for most of the year, but even on the greyest days, my house feels happy." Making you happy – isn't that exactly what friends are for?

LEFT In the master bedroom, the River Seine (in the map of Paris), a vase and Birks-box-blue walls show how layering shades of a colour builds interest within a palette. The console is actually a radiator cover from a show home Nancy designed.

VASE, Anthropologie.

OPPOSITE, TOP Blue was the only colour Shereen previously had in her house and it's the one she has an abiding love for, so it was a natural choice for the master bedroom. Toss cushions in a darker blue than the walls add depth, while the casual stack of books continues the relaxed vibe.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM Nancy designed the clean-lined headboard and covered it in natural linen. She also convinced Shereen to go with the matching jute rug for some much-needed texture. Tolomeo wall sconces are a favourite of the designer's. "The aluminum finish makes them fit in with any decor, whether modern, rustic or contemporary," she says, "and they articulate, which is handy for reading at night."

Custom linen **HEADBOARD,** Riesco & Lapres Interior Design; **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Valerianne Fine Linens; jute **RUG,** IKEA.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

gone to great lengths

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** BARRY CALHOUN

Designer Kelly Deck turns to traditional architectural features and a European sensibility to create a new-build home that's slightly different than the rest.

Check out photos of the wet bar in our Workbook

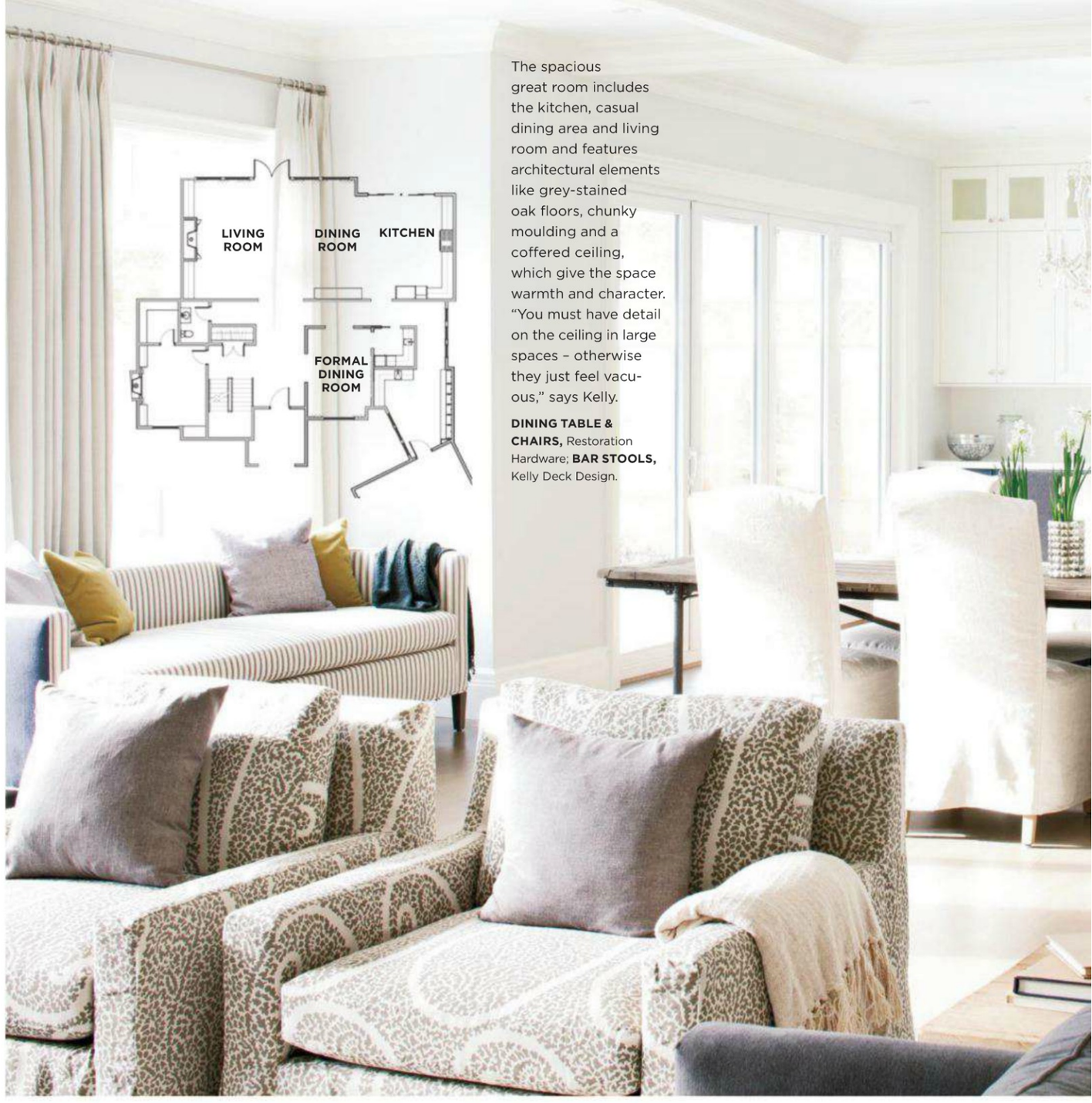
The architectural detailing of the home's main archways, like this one leading from the foyer into the formal dining room, was inspired by homes from the neoclassical era. "The elaborate archways really add grandeur," says designer Kelly Deck.

DESIGN, Kelly Deck Design, kellydeck.com; **TABLE LAMP,** Pottery Barn; **BUFFET,** The Latest Scoop.

In the formal dining room, curvaceous chairs surround a rustic wooden table, exemplifying the room's elegant, comfortable vibe. The wallpaper, which inspired the home's grey, white and wood-toned colour palette, adds visual interest and softness to the room. "And I think it identifies it as a special space in the home," says Kelly.

WALLPAPER, Cole & Son; Scallop **CHANDELIER,** Circa Lighting; **DINING TABLE & CHAIRS,** Restoration Hardware; custom **DRAPERY,** Kelly Deck Design.

Dining Room



The spacious great room includes the kitchen, casual dining area and living room and features architectural elements like grey-stained oak floors, chunky moulding and a coffered ceiling, which give the space warmth and character. "You must have detail on the ceiling in large spaces – otherwise they just feel vacuous," says Kelly.

DINING TABLE & CHAIRS, Restoration Hardware; **BAR STOOLS,** Kelly Deck Design.

"We imagined a large family growing up in

Imagine you're a young family looking for your dream home. You want something where you can raise your children, welcome impromptu visitors, host big get-togethers – a place where you can put down roots and create new memories. You wonder what kind of house this would be – what style, what design? If you were to consult designer Kelly Deck, this home would be it. Because when her firm was hired by the reputable builder Blakewood Homes to design a dwelling in a leafy Vancouver neighbourhood two years ago, that was her goal: to create something that would accommodate the hustle and bustle of family life – a veritable Grand Central Station in its established West End area.

"We imagined a large family growing up in this home," says Kelly, who shares design advice in her *Globe and Mail* column and is known for her HGTV show *Take It Outside*. On the main level, a massive 22-by-54-foot great room offers plenty of space for hanging out and entertaining – whether accommodating a group of kids after soccer practice or hosting a formal dinner party. "So there are things like a big dining table and an island outfitted with bar stools in the great room," says Kelly, "and then a separate formal dining room with a wet bar."

Unquestionably family oriented in functionality, this grand 6,000-square-foot, two-storey house needed an aesthetic that would stand the test of time. It's not uncommon to see new-builds with a traditional style, but Kelly eschewed any cookie-cutter look and instead

In the living room, the fireplace is flanked by white-painted built-ins. "We did discuss doing them in a colour closer to the floor, but I felt it would distract from the fireplace, and I wanted the walls to read all as one element," says Kelly. Because the chairs back on to the great room's dining area, it was important they add interest. "That's why I chose this large-scale print," says Kelly.

SOFA, Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams; **ARMCHAIR,** Kelly Deck Design; **SIDE TABLES,** CountryFurniture; **TABLE LAMPS,** Pottery Barn.

this home." KELLY DECK, DESIGNER

painstakingly considered the architectural details – even researching elements and having them custom made by skilled craftsmen – which lent the house its distinctive, timeless flavour. Leading up from the vast foyer, for example, the staircase was inspired by southern United States colonial homes from the 1930s. "You can't find newel posts like that anymore," says Kelly. "We did a lot of research, found this profile and had them custom turned for this home."

Given the house's grand proportions and impressive architectural bones, Kelly had to ensure that the overall aesthetic seemed approachable – not too formal or fussy – and able to sustain a laid-back West Coast lifestyle.

RIGHT The oak staircase, which leads from the grand foyer, features handcrafted newel posts and white-painted spindles and risers. "I like the break in the tread and the riser," says Kelly. "It creates a lighter look."

In the kitchen, unobtrusive elements like the white quartz countertops, white ceramic subway-tile backsplash and panelled range hood offer a seamless look. "Panelling the hood brings a real elegance to the space," says Kelly. "It makes it more about the kitchen overall than about the hood and the stove because a steel hood fan draws your eye to it, while the panelled one doesn't need to be the centre of attention."

Zodiaq quartz **COUNTER-TOPS** in Snow White, DuPont; **RANGE,** GE Monogram.

"The house has a stately formality, but at the same time it's just really unpretentious." KELLY DECK, DESIGNER

Kitchen

"The house has a stately formality, but at the same time it's just really unpretentious," she says. She created a relaxed atmosphere with a soothing, light colour scheme, natural fabrics, clean-lined furnishings and hits of soft over-scaled pattern. "We envisioned something that was inspired by the look of a European farmhouse," she says. Wood, especially oak, plays a dominant role throughout the home. "Oak is common for us to use because it takes stains so beautifully," says Kelly, "and it has a really inherent grain and that works with the sort of rustic, relaxed quality of this house."

Storage was also a huge consideration. Built-in millwork (which Kelly prefers over stand-alone cabinets or utility closets) features closed and open storage. She realizes that tucking things away is important, but it's also essential to offer spots for display or for simply keeping useful items within easy reach. "When things get all closed up, it almost starts to feel really uptight, especially in a home like this," says Kelly. "It feels like there's no room to just throw a book somewhere."

"Little benches, little hooks, little shelves and extra drawers...they're the things that a lot of people sacrifice on," she adds, "but those are the things you're grateful for every single day because they make life so much easier." After all, throughout the design process, Kelly never forgot that, while this house, as grand as it is, is a dream home, the people who live here are indeed very real.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

RIGHT The deep stainless steel farmhouse-style sink is both functional and decorative. With its protruding apron (and paired with an elegant gooseneck faucet), the ample single sink serves as a focal point in the room and is also perfect for washing and filling big pots. The panelled fridge's curvy door pulls (shown in background) also complement the kitchen's transitional style.

FRIDGE HARDWARE, Bradford Decorative Hardware Studio; Premier **FAUCET,** FaucetDirect.com; Kräus **SINK,** ExpressDecor.com.

The kitchen's mix of cabinetry lends the space an enduring, unique look. Kelly chose lowers in a classic navy colour, white uppers ("so the space wasn't too distracting") and a light oak island with a marble countertop. "And the room is so quiet it needed something a little bit more fanciful, so that's why we decided on the chandeliers," she says.

White Dove OC-17 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Hale Navy HC-154 **CABINETRY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **CHANDELIERS,** Eurofase; Calcutta Vagli marble **ISLAND COUNTERTOP,** Hari Stones.

oh, BAHAMAS

TEXT ANNE O'HAGAN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY VAN BERKEL

A laid-back, eclectic retreat pays homage to its roots.

Just inside the entrance, a splash of coral set off by the pale greyish blue of an antique console and mirror instantly establishes the Caribbean palette, while the milky white balances the overall effect.

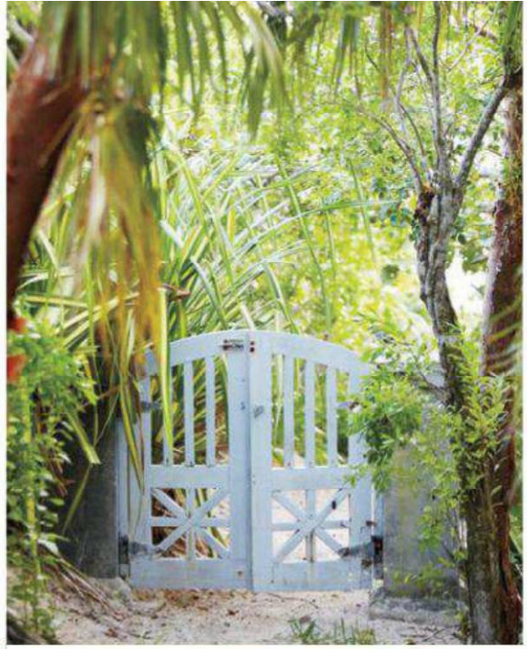
DESIGN, Studio Pyramid, studiopyramid.com; Coral Pink 2-6 **WALL PAINT,** Pratt & Lambert.

OPPOSITE With its simple wooden staircase lined with lanterns and tropical plants in large clay pots, the main entrance to Sea House – the name given to the property by its owner – sets the stage with warmth and style.

Surrender yourself for just a few moments to the hammock slung across the oceanfront porch and you'll get it. Outdoor living is the tonic that Sea House serves – the essence of what homeowner Lesley Allan sought when she went looking, some 14 years ago, for a house on Harbour Island, a tiny jewel in the Bahamas. With small children at the time, she knew what she wanted: barefoot beachfront and generous exterior space. "I loved the pace of the island, especially for children," she says. But not finding what she envisioned for her family, she created it instead. "I built this house for my daughters." What lucky daughters they are.

Set high on a bluff overlooking the beach, the two-storey house, defined by its wraparound porches, offers knockout perspectives of the sea's luminous aqua blue and the powdery pink sand that make Harbour Island as photogenic as supermodel Gisele Bündchen. Long a best-kept secret of bon vivants, bluebloods and island aficionados, the draw is the beach – but there's also the vibe. "It's small enough to have a sense of community yet large enough to feel like you can do your own thing," says Lesley, a Toronto resident who escapes to the island whenever she can.

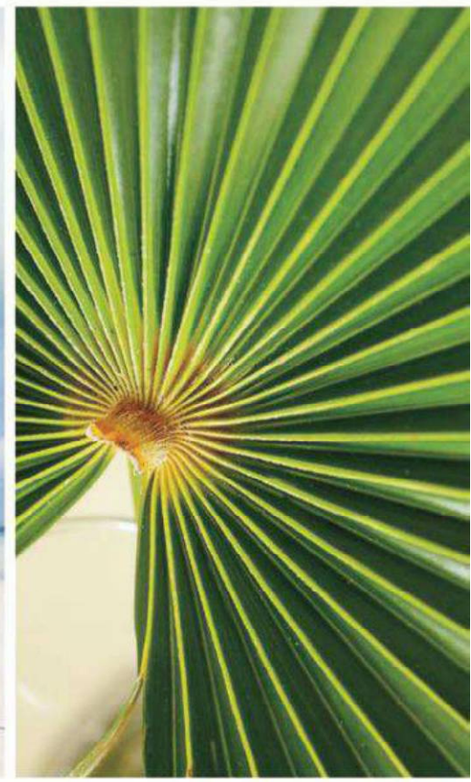
And expectations can be trouble when designing a house in the tropics. Salt water corrodes, sun fades, surfaces buckle – in no time your home can end up more shabby than chic. So when Lesley set out on her Caribbean adventure, she did her homework first, aiming to outfit the house for longevity as much as livability and good looks. She also approached her friend Alexander-Sasha Josipovicz of Studio Pyramid ("He's larger than life, he's fearless!") to collaborate with her. Like-minded in

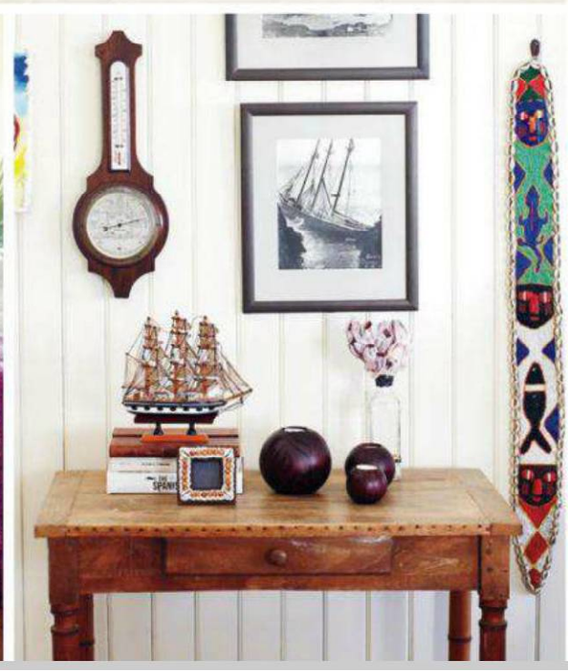


OPPOSITE The living room is the showstopper of the house with an 18-foot-high cathedral ceiling and majestic mahogany doors facing the ocean, which create a series of live vignettes, each offering their own POV of the ocean.

Slipcovered **SOFA & ARMCHAIR,** Elte; zig zag **TOSS CUSHION,** Blue Rooster; fuchsia **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Primavera; leather **WING CHAIR,** Miss Mae's; orange **SCARF,** British Flag **SHOE MOULD,** The Sugar Mill; fur **TOSS CUSHION,** Absolutely; **COFFEE TABLE,** Trianon; Monkeybiz animal **SCULPTURE,** Eat My Words; orange **SIDE TABLE,** Princess Street Gallery.

LEFT & FAR LEFT Homeowner Lesley Allan and designer Alexander-Sasha Josipovicz take a moment to relax and enjoy the views of the garden from the front porch.





ABOVE, LEFT & RIGHT Harbour Island's picturesque surroundings provide ample decor inspiration.

LEFT & FAR LEFT Throughout the house, beadboard walls are painted a soft ecru – a calming backdrop for the vibrant pops of colour and texture that give Sea House its stylish edge and haute gypsy feel. The living room is case in point with its carefully curated collection of accessories chosen to reflect the island's diverse history and tropical style.

Downy Gray 8-32 **WALL PAINT** (throughout), Pratt & Lambert; **DAYBED,** L'Atelier; straw graphic **TOSS CUSHION,** Blue Rooster.

many ways, they threw themselves into achieving her vision: a relaxed, open-air family retreat whose decor would reflect her passions and predilections, including art, travel, culture, beautiful things, good company and comfort.

Built in the traditional Caribbean vernacular with beadboard walls and wide-plank pine floors, the house is capacious with four bedrooms, four bathrooms and, at 4,400 square feet, almost equal amounts of interior space and porches. It is the ultimate indoor/outdoor house designed to make

The house was designed with the bedrooms on the ground floor to take advantage of the cooler air. Each of these rooms boasts several windows and double doors that are adorned with linen drapery panels casually tied together at the ends for a look that's easygoing and super-relaxed.

ARMOIRE, Miss Mae's; white linen
DRAPERY FABRIC, Primavera;
DRAPERY RODS, Designer Fabrics.

"MY GUESTS SAY THE HOUSE IS EASY TO LIVE IN, EASY TO WAKE UP IN."

LESLEY ALLAN, HOMEOWNER

the most of cooling cross breezes and floods of sunlight. Cleverly inverting the traditional two-storey layout, the common rooms at Sea House are on the second floor where the views are stunning and the breeze is best, the bedrooms on the ground floor where it's cooler at night.

"The house has a layered, lived-in look, as if generations have inhabited it," says Alexander-Sasha. True enough, Sea House may be new, but it has an old soul – a deep connection with the island's legacy. "It's British colonial meets French plantation – the real Caribbean style," he adds. Alexander-Sasha decorated the house with an eclectic mix of furnishings from different periods and styles, including antiques and family heirlooms, and accessories from local island shops to create a vintage tropical style.

Throughout much of the interior of Sea House, Alexander-Sasha selected warm white shades as they age better and survive longer under the

ABOVE, LEFT & RIGHT "My guests say the house is easy to live in, easy to wake up in," says Lesley. And this charming, light-filled bedroom is no exception, decorated with antiques, fine linens, local finds and hand-me-down treasures.

TOP RIGHT Decorated for Lesley's daughters when they were young, this bedroom still feels fresh and current thanks to its playful palette of blue, pink and white and eclectic mix of old and new.

Cilantro 22-2 **WALL PAINT,** Pratt & Lambert; **WALL SCONCES** (throughout), Turn of the Century Lighting; **DUVET COVERS,** Au Lit Fine Linens.

RIGHT A rustic side table – a family heirloom along with the wrought-iron bed – gives the bedroom a lived-in look.

blazing Bahamian sun. But that didn't keep him from using classic island colours as accents. In particular, he took the opportunity to use two of his favourites: Coral bathes the dining room and livens up the main hallway, while two of the bedrooms are painted a pale aqua.

Given its eclectic style, it's not surprising to discover a bit of Canadiana at Sea House as well. Fur toss cushions in the living room make a playful reference to the homeowner's northern roots, and a full set of bistro dining chairs hearken back as well. Lesley bought them from the Toronto restaurant formerly known as Jacques Omelettes years before the house was finished and shipped them south. For her, they add a subtle nostalgic valuc: "I wcnt to Jacqucs with my mothcr forcvcr." With the home's laid-back atmosphere and compelling decor, you can be sure that, for Lesley's daughters, Sea House will have its own mythology.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

The ceiling fan on the kitchen's high-peaked ceiling creates cross breezes, providing natural ventilation. The unfussy space was designed to accommodate family breakfasts and casual entertaining.

NAPKIN, TABLECLOTH, The Sugar Mill.

RIGHT, TOP On an island where power outages are a fact of life, appliances were chosen for their simplicity, as well as their rust- and salt-proof finishes.

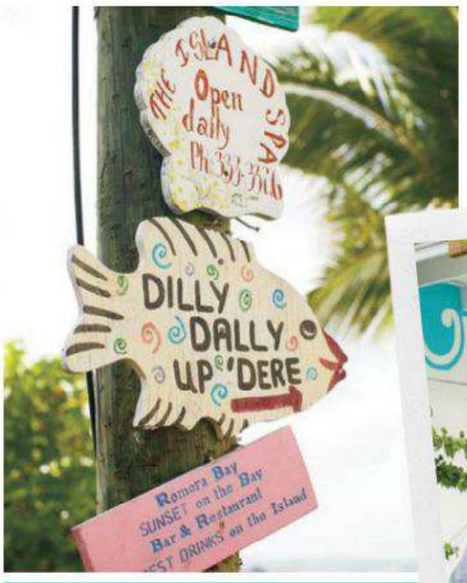
RIGHT, BOTTOM At sunset, the unadorned windows in the dining room provide a clear view of the sky as it morphs from orangey pink to deep purple.

Coral Pink 2-6 **WALL PAINT,** Pratt & Lambert; **HORNS,** Absolutely; **CHEST,** Miss Mae's; shell **VASE,** The Sugar Mill.

BLUE ROOSTER "Gabrielle Kenedy, the owner, has the most fabulous taste in jewellery and accessories." The racks are filled with beautiful patterned tunics and sundresses, along with hats and totes to "mismatch" any one of your outfits.

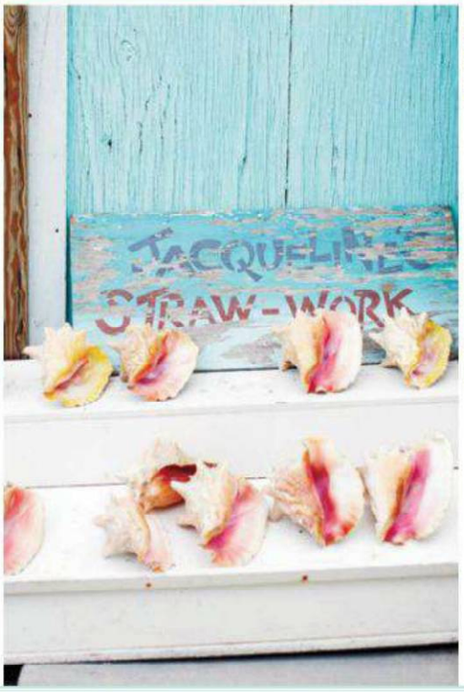
QUEEN CONCH "A little roadside café, Queen Conch is a great spot to watch the sunset and have a Kalik and delicious conch salad." This popular stand is frequented by locals and visitors alike. Try the conch fritters as well – you won't be disappointed!

THE SUGAR MILL "Linda Griffin and India Hicks's collection is full of unique pieces with edge. Clothing, jewellery, housewares, books – and it appeals as much to teenagers as it does to their mothers." The eclectic shop is just a few steps away from The Landing, a historic boutique hotel that India designed.

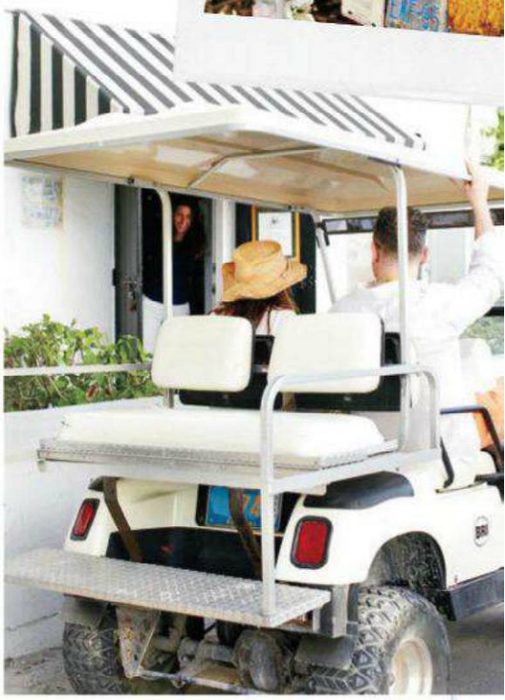


welcome to paradise

Harbour Island, Bahamas, may be tiny but it sure makes up for its small size with its bursting array of sophisticated, one-of-a-kind shops and fresh seafood restaurants. Here are a few of Lesley Allan's favourites on the island.



MISS MAE'S "You never know what to expect in Pip Simmons's shop. She takes the island to a new level. Her taste is whimsical and beautiful." Here, eye-catching fashions mingle with an assortment of distinctive antiques.



LOW-KEY LIFESTYLE Golf carts are the main source of transportation on the island, which is both fun and relaxing. Rent one to tour the sights like the famous three-mile-long pink sand beach and the colourful architecture along flower-lined streets.

TEXT SAMANTHA SACKS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** VIRGINIA MACDONALD | **STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

A party of five

The happy home of designer Samantha Sacks and her family is a blend of low and luxe with global flair and organic textures, all set against a backdrop of Victorian architecture.

Calming neutrals are layered for visual interest in the living room. This is a grown-up space where kids are welcome to enjoy the fire or play a game of dominoes, but nothing rough enough to disrupt Sunday morning's paper and coffee.

DESIGN, Sam Sacks Design, samsacksdesign.com; silver **PEDESTAL TABLE,** HomeSense; **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom; **RUG,** IKEA; **COWHIDE,** Perfect Leather 555.

"We bathe our battered minds in the organic textures of wood, weave, glass and mirror."

SAMANTHA SACKS, HOMEOWNER & DESIGNER

For an alternate look at this room, see our Workbook

OPPOSITE The large wooden dining table easily accommodates the family of five.

DINING TABLE, Crate and Barrel; **DINING CHAIRS,** Design Republic; **DOORS,** The Door Store; **COWHIDE,** West Elm.

ABOVE The fresh green of this framed insect paired with the chalky white of the starfish was the jumping-off point for the home's palette.

TOP The elaborate Egyptian doors may seem out of place in a Victorian home, but their patina and history speak to the home's heritage.

RIGHT, TOP
The bookcases flanking the fireplace were lovingly built by homeowner Paul Kilback's father and brother. Adding inexpensive dental moulding to the top makes them seem like they were always part of the house.

RIGHT, BOTTOM
It's the mix of the precious and the indestructible – rustic woods with a delicate crystal chandelier – that gives the dining room its depth.

CONSOLE, IKEA; **ARTWORK,** Reza Kassai; **TABLE LAMPS,** The Home Depot.

I won't lie: It can get pretty disgusting around here – the dog-drooling, kids-stomping-mud-through-the-house kind of gross. That's why, in those delicious spells of silence when the last of our three children (Harper, 11, Oliver, 8, and Jessie, 6) has finally drifted off to sleep and our Newfoundlander, Chewbacca, thumps his giant head on the ground and settles in for the evening, my husband, Paul Kilback, and I sit together and sip in the serenity of neutral tones. We bathe our battered minds in the organic textures of wood, weave, glass and mirror – a salve for the unspeakable noise of video games, kids screaming and the vacuuming of dog hair that will, as surely as the sun rises, begin again the next day.

The house isn't huge – just under 2,000 square feet packed into three tall, skinny floors in a downtown Toronto Victorian. When we first purchased the house eight years ago, it was move-in-ready. The big work had been done; we just needed to make it pretty and functional. One of the biggest problems was storage: It was standard issue for an 1880s family home (read: none). My goal was to create a place for everything in a space that felt youthful and modern yet true to the home's heritage. Oh, and did I mention this all had to be done on a budget?

The makeover started with a pair of tummy-turning-beautiful Egyptian doors that I used to frame the doorway to the kitchen. They offer a bit of history and a whole lot of drama, setting the mood for the dining and living rooms beyond. Although Egyptian doors in a Victorian might sound strange, they speak to the other global influences throughout the house, such as Moroccan pouffes and African throws, and are the perfect hit of hip to keep the space from feeling stuffy. A modern glass railing stands in direct contrast, visually expanding the main floor and allowing loads of natural light to flow through. White walls, blonde floors and natural materials were

STYLE FOR LESS

"PAUL AND I BOUGHT THE ARTWORK IN THE DINING ROOM ON THE BOARDWALK IN VENICE BEACH, CA., FOR A SONG. WHEN WE GOT HOME, WE DISCOVERED THE ARTIST WAS OF SOME NOTE, BUT HAD FALLEN ON HARD TIMES. THE LESSON? BUY WHAT YOU LOVE, WHETHER IT'S IN A GALLERY OR AT A COUNTY FAIR."

This space does double duty as an office and a family room. Graphic prints keep the look fun and fresh, while durable fabrics meet the family's needs, standing up to the array of goldfish crackers and yogurt tubes that are invariably smeared into their surfaces. Loads of shelving keep everyone organized.

SHELVING UNIT, SOFA, RUG, DESK, PENDANT LIGHT, IKEA.

STYLE FOR LESS

"I UPHOLSTERED THE HEADBOARD IN MY DAUGHTER'S ROOM WITH FABRIC THAT COST JUST $27 PER YARD. YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A PRO EITHER: I AFFIXED THE HEADBOARD FABRIC TO A PIECE OF PLYWOOD WITH A STAPLE GUN. IT HAS ENDURED HOURS OF KID-TOUGH PLAY AND HASN'T BUDGED AN INCH."

RIGHT A playful mix of pattern in an array of pinks remains fresh against a crisp white backdrop in six-year-old Jessie's room. Decorating with hand-knit dresses (Grandma's handiwork) and Jessie's favourite books makes the room feel special.

TOSS CUSHION FABRIC, HEADBOARD FABRIC, Designer Fabrics; **DRUM STOOL,** HomeSense; **SHEEPSKIN,** IKEA.

FAR RIGHT & BOTTOM Colour rules in the master bedroom, but only because the oiled white oak floors are the perfect foil for a splashy show of fuchsia and orange.

FLOORING, Coswick; **RUG,** The Rug Company; **DRAPERY FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; **ARMCHAIR,** IKEA; **FLOOR LAMP,** HomeSense.

added to create a calm canvas that's restful on the eyes.

On the second floor, I transformed a spare room into a multi-purpose space but was faced with the challenge of making it suitable for both office work and kids at play. To achieve this, I selected durable textiles, such as the grey menswear fabric on the sofa and the saddle-coloured leather ottoman, to withstand 20,000 double-chocolate licks and still look respectable for my client meetings. A shelving unit outfitted with bins for each client helps maintain order and tidiness.

To keep the look fresh rather than fussy in a traditional home, I chose to bring in colour through accessories, which can be easily swapped out with the season or my mood. Blasts of colour in the kids' rooms are youthful but sophisticated enough to grow with them, while the pink in the master bedroom is more fun pattern play than saccharine sweet (and frankly, I think, shows the master *is* really man enough to handle a few girlie flourishes in the boudoir).

The result is a mix of Victorian architecture with far-flung furnishings that adds up to a modern global aesthetic – the perfect tone for a young family in an old house.

FOR SOURCES,
SEE OUR WORKBOOK

STYLE FOR LESS

"ANY TIME I FALL IN LOVE WITH A FABRIC, I BUY A YARD AND HAVE MY DRY CLEANER SEW IT INTO CUSHION COVERS. IF I SUPPLY THE ZIPPER, HER LABOUR IS $15 PER CUSHION AND TA-DAH – MY ROOMS HAVE A BRAND NEW LOOK."

5alive

We combine our five favourite summer-fresh ingredients in easy recipes that take the guesswork out of hot-weather meals.

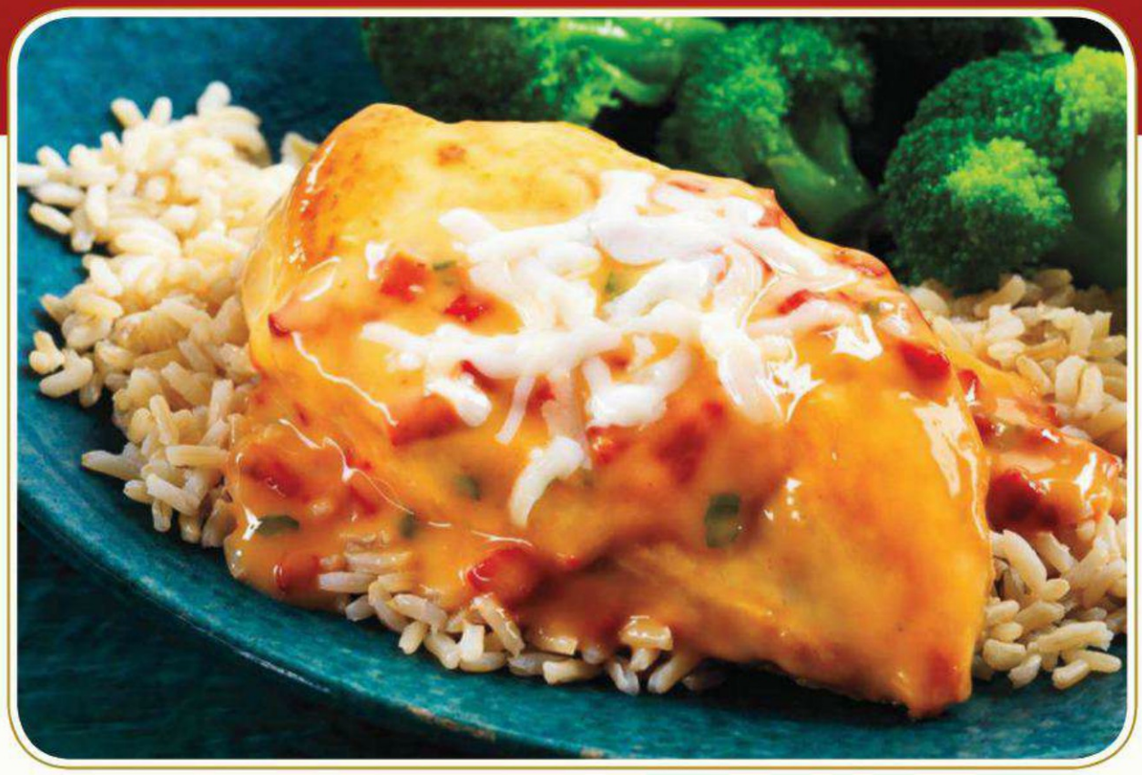
RECIPES & FOOD STYLING
CLAIRE STUBBS

PHOTOGRAPHY
EDWARD POND

PROP STYLING
LARA MCGRAW

FLATBREAD PIZZA MARGHERITA

WE'D LIKE TO OFFER OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES TO YOUR DESSERT.



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ROASTED RED PEPPER CHICKEN

Prep: 10 min Cook Time: 35 min Serves: 4

4	boneless, skinless chicken breasts (about 1 lb)
1 can	(10 oz/284 mL) CAMPBELL'S® Condensed Low Fat Cream of Chicken Soup
¼ cup	finely chopped roasted red pepper
¼ cup	apple juice
2 tbsp	ketchup
4	garlic cloves, chopped
¼ tsp	ground black pepper
2 tbsp	chopped fresh basil leaves
¼ cup	shredded Mozzarella cheese
2 cups	hot cooked brown rice, cooked without salt

1. *Brown chicken well in large non-stick skillet at medium-high heat. Reduce heat to medium.*
2. *Stir in soup, red pepper, apple juice, ketchup, garlic and black pepper. Heat to a boil. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer until chicken is fully cooked – about 20 minutes.*
3. *Add basil and stir well. Serve on rice and sprinkle with Mozzarella cheese.*

Per serving: 320 calories, 6 g fat, 550 mg sodium, 34 g carbohydrates, 2 g fibre, 30 g protein, 8% DV calcium

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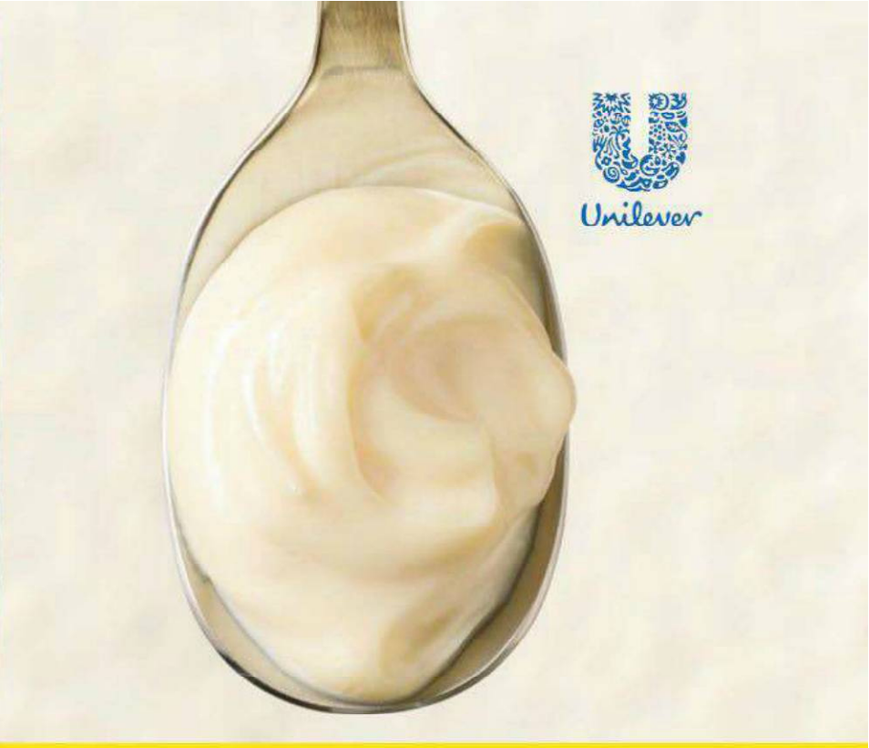

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Think of summer and food inevitably comes to mind. It might not be the first thing that pops into your head, but it's definitely right up there with sunshine, beaches, vacations and reading a good book. Where summer meals are concerned, freshness and simplicity are key – just-picked goodness unaltered with heavy sauces or long cooking times. We've developed these recipes with that criteria in mind, and to make it even easier, we've done it all using only the five main ingredients we can't get enough of at this time of year: sweet corn, juicy tomatoes, fragrant basil, powerhouse spinach and plump garlic. So sit back, relax and pick up that book – dinner is on its way.

FLATBREAD PIZZA MARGHERITA

MAKES 4 PIZZAS

¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 tbsp minced garlic
1 lb campari-style tomatoes, chopped
½ cup torn fresh basil leaves, divided
4 8-inch flatbreads
1 cup fresh corn kernels cut from the cob
1 cup chopped baby spinach
4 oz bocconcini cheese, torn into 12 pieces
½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

In a skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and stir until fragrant but not brown, about 1 minute. Add the chopped tomatoes and cook over a gentle heat for about 25 minutes, until the tomatoes break apart and become saucy. Remove from the heat, add half the basil and season to taste with salt and pepper; set aside.

Preheat the oven to 450°F. Place a baking sheet on the bottom rack of the oven to catch any spills. Place the flatbreads directly onto the centre rack of the oven and bake for about 3 minutes, turning once halfway through cooking time. Remove the flatbreads from the oven and top each with ¼ cup of the tomato sauce, corn and spinach. Add 3 pieces of bocconcini and 2 tbsp of Parmesan to each.

Use a large spatula to return the flatbreads to the centre oven rack. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, until the cheese is melted and bubbly and the crusts are crisp and nicely browned.

Pull out the oven rack and slide the pizzas onto individual cutting boards. Sprinkle each pizza with the remaining basil and cut into slices to serve.

SUMMER SALAD WITH HONEY MUSTARD DRESSING

SERVES 4

2 tbsp honey mustard
2 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 clove garlic, minced
2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
½ tsp Maldon sea salt
8 cups baby spinach
12 coloured cherry tomatoes, halved
1 cup fresh corn kernels cut from the cob
1 avocado, cut into chunks
1 lb chopped rotisserie chicken
½ cup crumbled blue cheese
½ cup torn fresh basil leaves

Whisk together the honey mustard, lemon juice, garlic, olive oil and salt in a small bowl. Arrange the baby spinach on a large platter and top with the tomatoes, corn, avocado and chicken. Sprinkle with the blue cheese and basil. Serve the salad with the dressing on the side.

CORN FRITTERS WITH SMOKY AIOLI

MAKES 8 FRITTERS

2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
2 free-range organic eggs
½ cup 2% milk
1 cup self-rising flour
1 tsp Maldon sea salt
1½ cups fresh corn kernels cut from the cob
⅓ cup diced vine-ripened tomato
⅓ cup crumbled feta cheese
2 tbsp chopped fresh basil
2 tbsp sliced green onions
1 cup baby spinach, cut into ribbons

Simple, fresh ingredients are the key to any no-fuss summer weeknight meal.

SUMMER SALAD WITH HONEY MUSTARD DRESSING

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Poulet florentin
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2 Vegetable Servings
2 portions de légume
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CORN FRITTERS
WITH SMOKY AIOLI

Lara serves up style

Prop stylist Lara McGraw has the best eye in the business for the perfect pieces to set the table. For these summer-casual meals, she recommends keeping the look clean-lined but sophisticated. "Add layers to your white crockery using formal linen napkins in complementary shades."

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†Provides 2/3 fruit and 1/3 vegetable serving per container. *Canada's Food Guide* recommends 5-10 daily servings of fruit and vegetables. 1 serving = 1/2 cup
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Just five ingredients can create a multitude of flavours.

FOR SMOKY AIOLI

½ cup real mayonnaise
1 clove garlic, minced
1 tbsp lemon zest
½ tsp smoked paprika

Heat the olive oil in a large non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Whisk together the eggs and the milk in a large bowl. Whisk in the flour and salt to form a smooth, thick batter. Gently fold in the corn, tomato, feta, basil, green onions and spinach.

Immediately drop ¼ cup batter per fritter into the hot pan. Cook for 2 minutes, until the bottoms are lightly golden. Turn over and cook for about 45 seconds more, until the fritters are cooked through.

In a small bowl, make the aioli by stirring together all the ingredients. Serve the fritters warm with a dollop of aioli.

SPINACH & FETA CHEESE BAKE

SERVES 8

1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
3 cloves garlic, minced
½ cup minced shallot
10 oz baby spinach
2 lbs fresh ricotta cheese
6 free-range organic eggs
1 tsp Maldon sea salt
½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
¼ cup chopped fresh basil
2 cups fresh corn kernels cut from the cob
1 pint grape tomatoes, halved
5 oz feta cheese, crumbled

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Sauté the garlic and the shallot until fragrant and sizzling but not brown, about 2 minutes. Turn the heat to low and add the spinach, stirring gently

to coat evenly with the garlic oil. Cook until just wilted and bright green. Remove the skillet from the heat and cool. Remove the spinach and squeeze with your hands to remove the excess liquid; set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk together the ricotta, eggs, salt and pepper. Stir in the basil, corn and cooked spinach. Spoon the mixture into a 12-cup ovenproof casserole dish. Top with the grape tomatoes and feta.

Bake for 55 minutes to 1 hour, until the casserole is set in the middle and just brown at the edges. Cool for 20 minutes before serving.

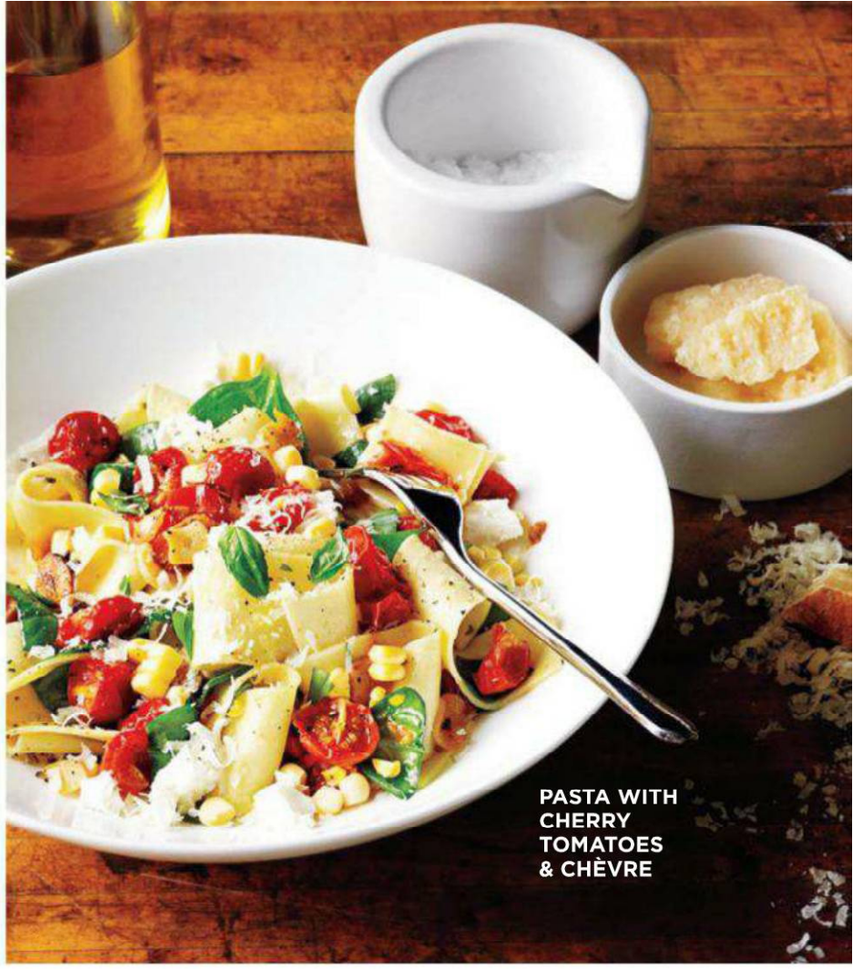
PASTA WITH CHERRY TOMATOES & CHÈVRE

SERVES 4

- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- 3 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 pkg fresh lasagna noodles, about 6 sheets
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 cup fresh corn kernels cut from the cob
- 3 cups baby spinach
- 4 oz soft chèvre, crumbled
- ½ cup torn fresh basil leaves
- Maldon sea salt and black pepper

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Stir together the cherry tomatoes, garlic slices and olive oil in a large bowl. Season lightly with salt and pepper. Place the cherry tomatoes on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet, cut side up. Roast for 35 to 40 minutes, until the tomatoes are wilted and slightly shrivelled and the garlic is golden and caramelized.

Meanwhile, stack 3 lasagna sheets on top of each other and cut across the short side into 1" ribbons. Set a large pot of salted water to boil on the stove for the pasta. When the water is boiling, cook the pasta for 3 minutes. Drain and return to the pot along with ¼ cup of the pasta cooking water and the butter. Add the roasted tomatoes and garlic, the corn and the spinach and warm through. Gently stir in the chèvre and basil. Season to taste with salt and pepper and serve.



PASTA WITH CHERRY TOMATOES & CHÈVRE

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McCormick Gourmet Smoked Paprika Roasted Salmon with Wilted Spinach

All you need

- ¼ cup (50 mL) orange juice
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) olive oil
- 2 tsp (10 mL) McCormick Gourmet Thyme Leaves, divided
- 2 lb (1 kg) salmon fillets
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) brown sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) McCormick Gourmet Smoked Paprika
- 1 tsp (5 mL) McCormick Gourmet Ground Cinnamon
- 1 tsp (5 mL) grated orange peel
- ½ tsp (2 mL) sea salt
- 1 tsp (5 mL) olive oil
- 1 bag (10 oz / 284 g) fresh spinach leaves

All you do

Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). In a glass bowl, combine juice, olive oil and 1 tsp (5 mL) thyme. Add salmon and turn to coat. Cover. Refrigerate 30 minutes.

In a small bowl, combine sugar, remaining spices and orange peel. Remove salmon from marinade. Place on foil-lined baking sheet. Discard any remaining marinade. Rub top of salmon evenly with spice mixture.

Bake for 8 to 12 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork.

Heat 1 tsp (5 mL) olive oil in large non-stick skillet on medium heat. Add spinach, cook 2 minutes or until wilted. Serve with salmon. Makes 8 servings.

For more great-tasting recipes, visit mccormickgourmet.com or call 1-800-265-2600

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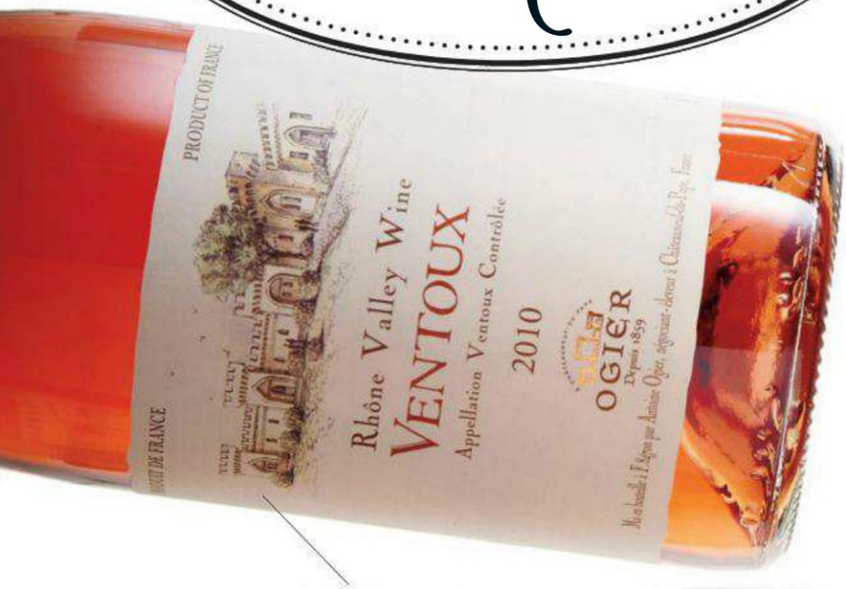
SEE PAGE 125
FOR DETAILS.

CHÂTEAU PUYFROMAGE MERLOT BLEND, $15

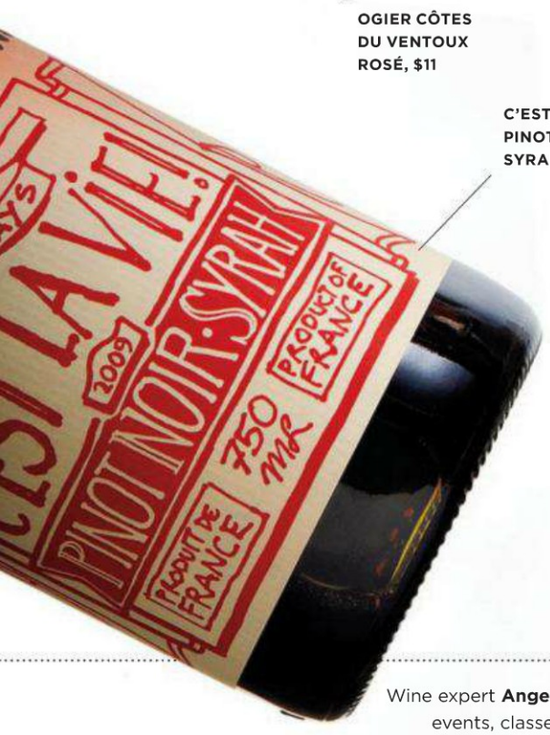
ESCAPE TO France

If there's one thing I know for sure, it's that all wine drinkers end up falling in love with French wine sooner or later. Maybe we just love the experience of drinking French wine (it whispers to you, *en français*). Or maybe it's the variety: There are several wine-making regions in France, each boasting unique varietals, which, for some, have been grown since Roman times. Here's what to look for when buying.



OGIER CÔTES DU VENTOUX ROSÉ, $11

C'EST LA VIE PINOT NOIR SYRAH, $12



REMY PANNIER SAUVIGNON BLANC, $12

IF YOU LIKE
RIESLING, GEWÜRZ-TRAMINER OR PINOT GRIS

Look for these wines from Alsace. Perfect for leisurely sipping, they pair with almost anything off the grill, as well as mild cheeses.

IF YOU LIKE
SAUVIGNON BLANC

A glass from the Loire Valley will have you thinking of a summer picnic in a French vineyard. Look for wines from Sancerre or Vouvray. Try Loire's Chenin Blanc, too!

IF YOU LIKE
SPARKLING WINE

The classic example is Champagne, made exclusively in the Champagne region. Crémants are refreshing sparklers made in the Champagne method but aren't from the Champagne region. Look out for French sparklers like Crémant de Bordeaux, Crémant de Bourgogne, Crémant de Loire and Crémant d'Alsace.

IF YOU LIKE
DESSERT WINE

Look for Sauternes in the Bordeaux region. This area boasts a late-harvested wine made with Sémillon that's magical. You can sip it, cook with it and explore unique cocktails. It's a great match for cheeses and the perfect after-dinner treat.

IF YOU LIKE
ROSÉ

Once you sip a French pink, you may never go back. The best rosés hail from Provence, Rhône and the Loire Valley. They're profoundly delicious: crisp, dry and full of aromatics.

IF YOU LIKE
CHARDONNAY

Look for Burgundy, Beaujolais or Chablis on the label. These wines are typically fresh and light to medium bodied.

IF YOU LIKE
FULL-BODIED REDS

Head to Bordeaux (best for Cabernet and Merlot blends) and the Rhône Valley. From Northern Rhône, Hermitage and Côte-Rhôtie are typically Syrah. The Southern Rhône is a tasty blend of Grenache, Syrah and Mouvedre among others (try Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Gigondas and Côtes du Rhône).

FOR WINE PAIRINGS, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

Wine expert **Angela Aiello** is the founder of the iYellow Wine Club (iyellowwineclub.com), which hosts regular events, classes and tours where members can build wine confidence and appreciation through discovery.

For thirst-quenching drink recipes and tips, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/WINEANDSPIRITS.**

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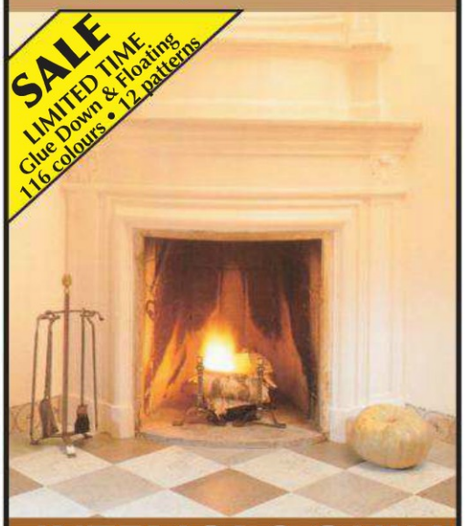

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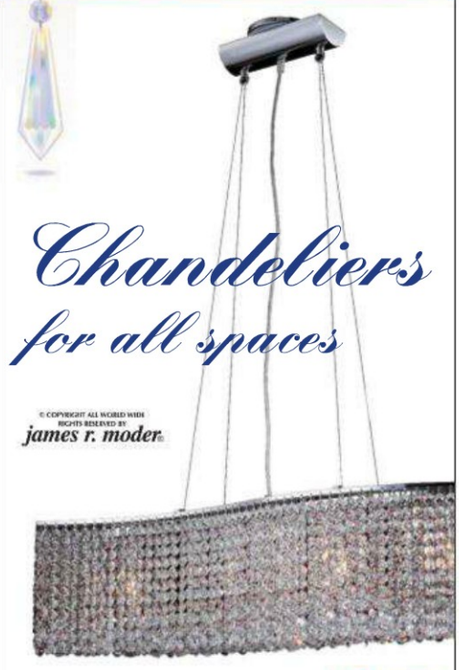

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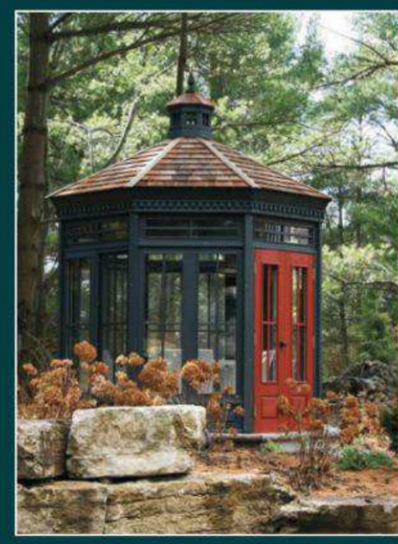

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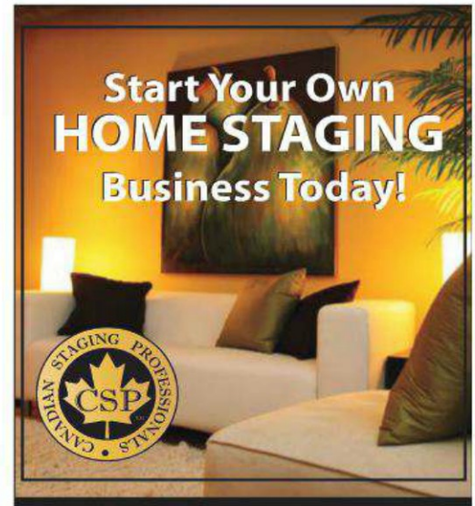

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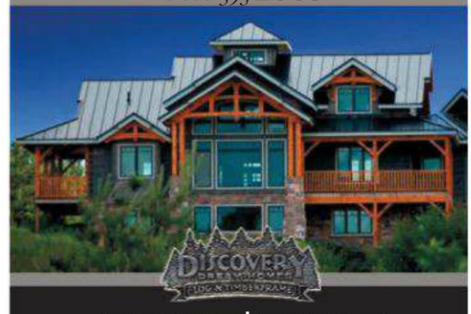

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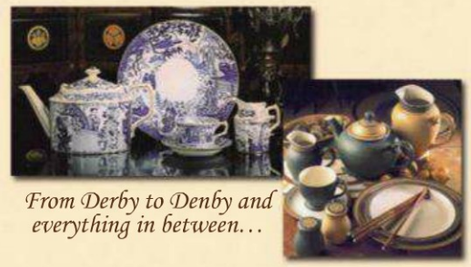

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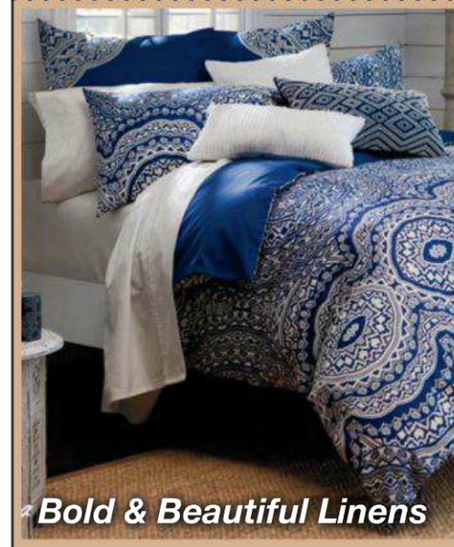

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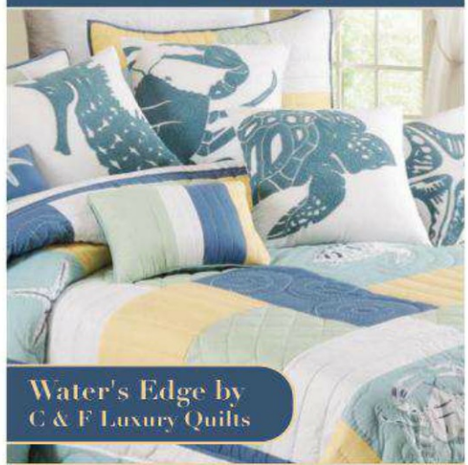

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it's a dog's world

a party of five **FROM PAGE 152**

BELOW Homeowner and designer Samantha Sacks's Newfoundlander, Chewbacca, decided it was time for a break and snuck into one of the shots in the eclectic living room. At first glance, it's easy to mistake the giant dog for a big, furry black rug!

The coffee table was fashioned from a piece of Douglas fir found at a lumber yard and a stainless steel frame (a style that typically retails for more than $1,000). It only cost Samantha around $400 to make.

cocktail hour

gone to great lengths **FROM PAGE 138**

ABOVE, LEFT & RIGHT Just off the formal dining room in this Vancouver home designed by Kelly Deck, a luxurious wet bar in a dark grey palette is outfitted with a sink, dishwasher and wine fridge and serves as a place to prepare drinks. With plenty of glass-fronted cabinetry, it takes the place of a china cabinet. The sparkly glass mosaic backsplash adds a touch of glamour.

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before & after

eat your heart out **FROM PAGE 84**

A massive gut job took this small-space kitchen from boring to brilliant. The layout was reconfigured for greater functionality and the new stainless steel appliances now fit flush with the cabinetry. A colourful art-glass mosaic backsplash replaced white subway tiles to create a show-stopping focal point.

PRODUCER, AMANDA ETTY; PHOTOGRAPHY, VIRGINIA MACDONALD (IT'S A DOG'S WORLD), BARRY CALHOUN (COCKTAIL HOUR), ANGUS FERGUSSON (BEFORES), DONNA GRIFFITH (AFTERS)

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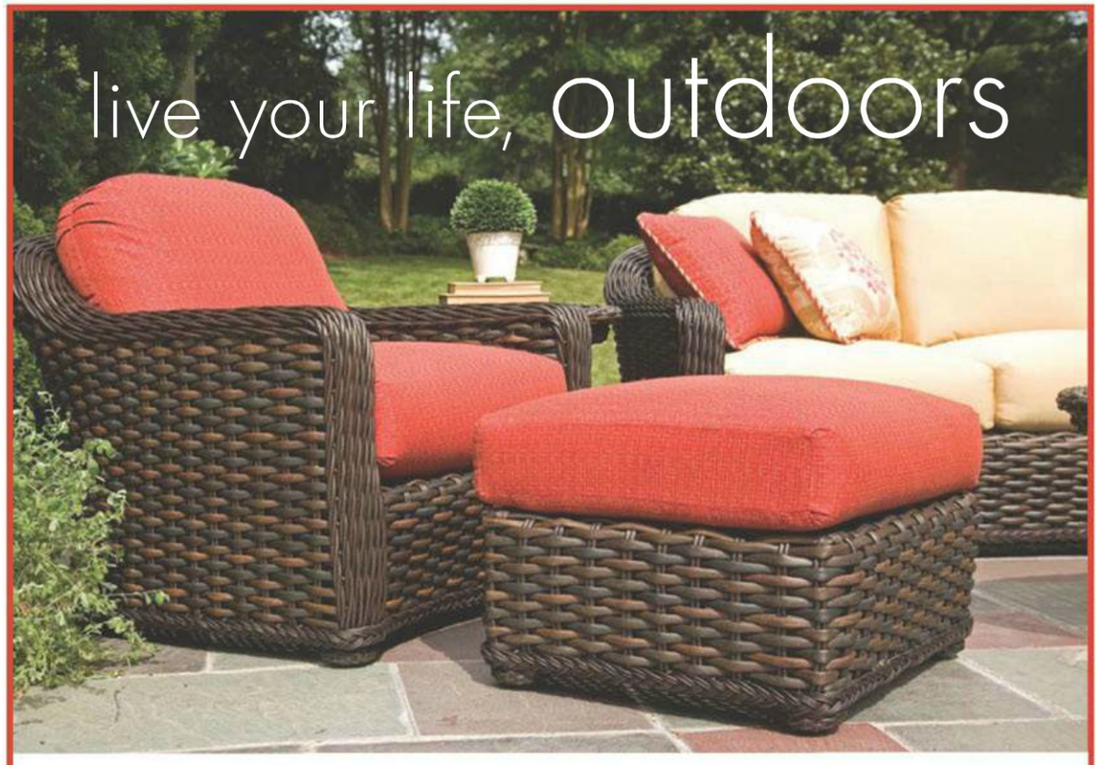

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tastings

perfect pairings FROM PAGE 168

Wine expert Angela Aiello selects five matches for our "Five Alive" menu (page 158).

Pair our **CORN FRITTERS WITH SMOKY AIOLI** with Trapiche Chardonnay, Argentina, $7.

Pair our **FLATBREAD PIZZA MARGHERITA** with D'Oh Piemonte Doc Dolcetto, Italy, $13.

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best diy decorating books

1 ***HANDMADE HOME*** **BY MARK & SALLY BAILEY (RYLAND PETERS & SMALL), $35**

Passionate for simple and quiet design, UK-based designers Mark and Sally Bailey present the quintessence of relaxed living in 12 inspirational homes that illustrate the beauty of handmade decor.

2 ***HOMESPUN STYLE*** **BY SELINA LAKE (RYLAND PETERS & SMALL), $36**

The third book by stylist Selina Lake inspires homeowners to decorate with rich colours, patterns and textiles to create homespun style. A simple approach to craft making is used on furniture and accessories to fashion truly unique looks for every room.

3 ***BE YOUR OWN DECORATOR*** **BY SUSANNA SALK (RIZZOLI), $50**

Learn how to think and decorate like your favourite designers in decor enthusiast Susanna Salk's fourth book, featuring beautifully designed rooms and quotes from more than 75 celebrated designers, including Kelly Wearstler, Charlotte Moss and Albert Hadley.

TEXT, VANESSA CHAGLUEVICH (HOME LIBRARY); PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (HOME LIBRARY)

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fauchoisfleurs.com

FaucetDirect.com
faucetdirect.com

Franke Kindred Canada
frankekindred.com

Friendly Fires
friendlyfires.ca

Funk & Gruven A-Z
funkandgruven.blogspot.com

G

GE Monogram
monogram.com

H

Hari Stones
haristoneslimited.com

Home Decor Window & Door Centre
homedecorwindows-anddoors.com

The Home Depot
homedepot.ca

HomeSense
homesense.ca

I

IKEA
ikea.ca

Indoors & Out
indoorsandout.com

Inform Interiors
informinteriors.com

J

Jonathan Adler
jonathanadler.com

K

Kelly Deck Design
kellydeck.com

Kitty Blandy
kittyblandy.com

Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom*
kravetcanada.com
leejofa.com

L

L'Atelier
416-966-0200

The Latest Scoop
thelatestscoop.ca

Le Divan Dodu
ledivandodu.com

Les Touilleurs
lestouilleurs.com

LG
lg.com

Louis Interiors
louisinteriors.com

M

Madeleines, Cherry Pie & Ice Cream
madeleines.ca

Maison Corbeil
maisoncorbeil.com

Masonite
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Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams
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Mtlmodern
mtlmodern.com

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Nuheat
nuheat.com

O

Of Things Past
ofthingspast.com

Original BTC
originalbtc.com

P

Penguin
penguin.ca

Penney & Company
michaelpenney-style.com

Perfect Leather 555
perfectleather-goods.com

Peter Tolliday Oriental Carpets
tollidayoriental.com

Pi Fine Art
pifineart.com

Pottery Barn
potterybarn.com

Pratt & Lambert
prattandlambert.com

Primavera*
primavera.ca

Princess Street Gallery
harbourisland-gallery.com

Provide Home
providehome.com

Q

Qui Dort Dine
quidortdine.ca

R

Restoration Hardware
restoration-hardware.com

Revive Decor
revivedecor.com

Reza Kassai
rezakassai.com

Riesco & Lapres Interior Design
riescolapres.com

Robert Allen*
robertallendesign.com

The Rug Company
therugcompany.info

S

Salari Fine Carpet Collections
salari.com

Sita Importing and Manufacturing
sedital.ca

Soft Options Upholstery
416-465-9131

Strecks
strecks.com

The Sugar Mill
sugarmillharbour-island.com

Summum Granit
summumgranit.com

T

Tonic Living
tonicliving.com

Trianon
trianon-online.com

Turn of the Century Lighting
tocl.ca

V

Valerianne Fine Linens
valeriannefine-linens.com

Vie de Campagne
viedecampagne.com

W

Waddington's
waddingtons.ca

Walker Zanger
walkerzanger.com

West Elm
westelm.com

WoodCare USA
woodcareusa.com

Worlds Away
worlds-away.com

Z

Z Gallerie
zgallerie.com

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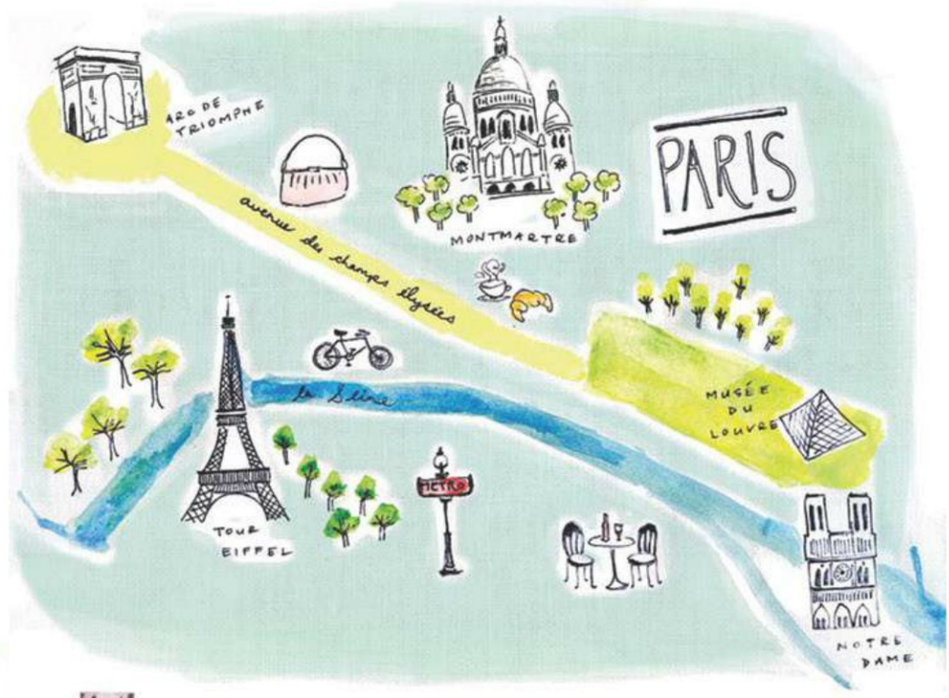
PARIS, FRANCE

Visiting Paris for just two short days, associate editor Sara Cation hit up only the hot spots, but still learned that one brief visit to the City of Lights is all it takes to experience *la vie en rose.*



SHOP SHAKESPEARE AND COMPANY

Book lovers, rejoice! Stuffed floor to ceiling with great reads and historically hosting the likes of James Joyce, Henry Miller and Allen Ginsberg, it's no wonder this tiny secondhand bookstore in the Latin Quarter has become an institution for the English-speaking literary community.

37 rue de la Bûcherie, shakespeareand-company.com.

SHOP MARCHÉ AUX PUCES

What do you get when a city's centuries of history are matched only by its signature avant-garde style? Flea markets teeming with antiques, intrigues, *objets* and, okay, a bit of junk. With a selection sprawling more than 3,000 stalls, St-Ouen de Clignancourt is Paris's most famous flea market.

marcheauxpuces-saintouen.com.

PIERRE FREY
PARIS

WIN A TRIP to Paris and a visit to the Pierre Frey archives! See page 125.

SHOP PIERRE FREY

A titan of textiles with a range that includes prints by French fashion mainstay Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, the *original* Toile de Jouy and intricate reproductions of the very fabrics Marie Antoinette loved, the Pierre Frey showroom is a decor landmark that no aficionado should miss.

27 rue du Mail, pierrefrey.com.

STAY HOTEL DURET

Located in the ritzy 16th arrondissement, this spacious four-star hotel is within walking distance to almost everything: four minutes to Avenue Foch (one of the most expensive residential streets in the world), 10 minutes to the Arc de Triomphe, 15 minutes to the Champs-Élysées and 30 minutes to the Eiffel Tower.

30 rue Duret, hotelduret.com.

EAT LADURÉE

If you love macarons (who doesn't?), you must try a crispy-smooth bite at Ladurée, which has been perfecting its recipe for more than 150 years. While locations are everywhere, including the airport, only the flagship on Champs-Élysées boasts a gilded interior.

75 avenue des Champs-Élysées, laduree.fr.

DO SPA L'OCCITANE

Lauded for its decadent spa and skin care line infused with ingredients harvested in verdant Provence, L'Occitane is a beautician's bounty (how lucky we can find it here!), and its Parisian spa, the pièce de résistance for perfect skin.

47 rue de Sèvres, spa.loccitane.com.

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Keely Overbye,
Style blogger, trend spotter

"Design is making technology better and technology is transforming how things are designed."

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Budget Blinds is a Home Franchise Concepts brand. *At participating franchises only. †Entrepreneur® magazine, 1996-Present.

the inspiration

The drop-dead gorgeous ceiling medallion that graces Samantha Sacks's living room is an original feature of her Victorian home.

Cleo Collection primed polyurethane **CEILING MEDALLION,** 29", $29, Rona, rona.ca; Lefkara Lace P5132-14 **CEILING MEDALLION PAINT,** Para Paints, para.com.

last LOOK

Every issue, we pick our favourite piece from one of the featured interiors. This month, we've chosen an ornate ceiling medallion from the home of Toronto designer Samantha Sacks (see "A Party of Five," page 152). **Here's what you need to know.**

WHY WE LOVE IT

A decorative ceiling medallion – whether simple or ornate – gives a room an instant dose of character and visual interest, which is often missing from new-build homes.

WHY IT WORKS

You can't go wrong with ceiling medallions! They're extremely inexpensive, readily available in a multitude of styles and lightweight, making them a cinch to install.

WHERE TO USE IT

Medallions are most commonly used on the ceiling to create a sophisticated focal point. Try hanging several of them in different shapes and sizes on a wall for an artful display.

PRODUCER, CATHERINE THERRIEN; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA, VIRGINIA MACDONALD (INTERIOR)

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